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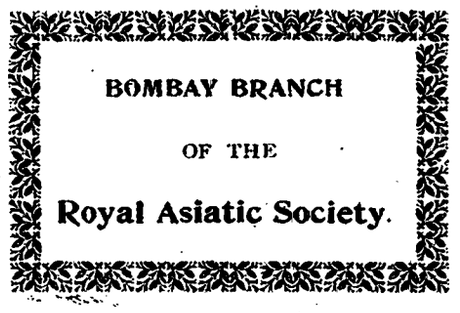

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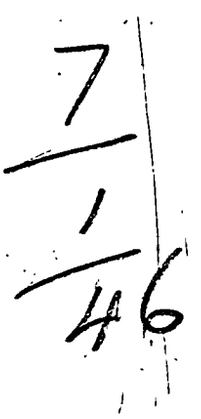

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL,

1914-1915.

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VII

CALCUTTA:

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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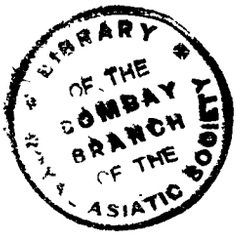
ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1914-15.



PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING THE YEAR 1914-15.

Head-quarters of Government.

DURING the year 1914-15, Darjeeling was the head-quarters of the Government of Bengal, from 27th April to 29th June, and again from 19th September to 2nd November; Dacca was the head-quarters from 6th July to 3rd August. The Dacca period was cut short owing to the outbreak of war when the Government returned to Calcutta. Calcutta was the head-quarters of Government for the rest of the year.

Tours.

2. On his way to the hills in April 1914, His Excellency visited Sarail, 14 miles south-east of Darjeeling, and a short distance from Mungpu, the head-quarters of the Government Cinchona Plantation. His Excellency remained at Sarail from 14th April to 24th April. He reached Darjeeling on 27th April, visiting Namring *en route*.

His Excellency left Darjeeling on 29th June, halted at Barrackpore for five days and reached Dacca on 5th July. He returned to Calcutta on 4th August and remained there till 6th September. He visited Dacca and Mymensingh from the 6th to 12th and left Calcutta for Darjeeling on 18th September, where he remained till 2nd November.

In November His Excellency visited the districts of Midnapore and Hooghly. He left Calcutta on the 8th, visited Contai on the 9th and reached Midnapore the same evening. His Excellency visited Kharagpur on the 11th and arrived in Chinsurah the next day, where he halted for two days. At Chinsurah His Excellency attended the opening ceremony of the King Edward Memorial Tower and opened the Hooghly-Chinsurah Water-works. He returned to Calcutta on 14th November.

On 14th January 1915, His Excellency left Calcutta for Jessore, visiting Barasat and Bongaon subdivisions on the way. His Excellency returned on 16th January. From 21st to 25th January His Excellency paid a visit to Sir Charles Bayley, Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, at Bankipore.

In February His Excellency spent from the 5th to the 19th at Dacca. On the 20th he left for Delhi to pay a visit to the Viceroy. He returned to Calcutta on the 28th.

On the 17th March His Excellency visited Bankura, where he opened the new Civil Court building, he visited Suri the following day. On the 20th *en route* for Calcutta he visited Bolpur School and Burdwan.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Executive Council.

3. The Hon'ble Mr. N. D. Beatson Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E., acted as a Temporary Member of the Bengal Executive Council, during the absence, on leave, of the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.I., from the 14th April to the 13th September 1914. The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson Bell succeeded to the permanent vacancy in the Council caused by the resignation of Sir Frederick William Duke, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., on the 1st November 1914.

Bengal Secretariat.

4. The pay of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal was raised to Rs. 3,750 a month, the rate sanctioned for the Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

In recognition of the growing importance of the Legislative Department of this Government, the status of the officer-in-charge of that Department was raised from an "Assistant Secretary" to that of a "Secretary," and he is now designated "Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Legislative Department and Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council."

Partition of the District of Midnapore.

5. Proposals for the partition of the district of Midnapore for the better administration of the district have long been under the consideration of Government. In 1913, a definite scheme of partition was drawn up and published for general information and criticism. After a careful consideration of the various suggestions put forward by representative bodies and private individuals interested in the matter, as well as of the recommendations of the Bengal District Administration Committee on the subject, a revised scheme has been prepared for dividing the existing district into two, as indicated below :—

(1) the district of Midnapore, with its head-quarters at Midnapore and outlying subdivisions at Ghatal and Jhargram, comprising a total area of 2,688 square miles, with a population of 1,088,447 ; and

(2) the district of Hijli, with its head-quarters at Kharagpur and outlying subdivisions at Contai and Tamluk, comprising a total area of 2,457 square miles, with a population of 1,732,754. No change, however, is at present contemplated with regard to the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore, who will continue to deal with cases from both districts. The final scheme was published for general information in January 1915, and a complete estimate of its cost is under preparation.

Partition of Mymensingh

6. The question of the partition of the unwieldy district of Mymensingh has been before Government since the year 1876, and the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was in favour of the constitution of three districts out of the present district. The whole

question was carefully re-examined by the Government of Bengal after the reconstitution of the Provinces, and in July 1912 a resolution was published in which it was proposed to create a new district consisting of the subdivisions of Jamalpur and Tangail, and to leave the remainder as the Mymensingh district, leaving the question of a still further division to future decision. The matter was further considered by the Bengal District Administration Committee who recommended the formation of the following three districts :—

(1) A south-eastern or Kishorganj district with head-quarters at Kishorganj, comprising an area of 1,630 square miles, and a population of 1,366,407 ;

(2) A western or Gopalpur district, with an area of 2,009 square miles, and a population of 1,738,525 ; and

(3) a central and north-eastern district with head-quarters at Mymensingh, comprising an area of 2,610 square miles, and a population of 1,421,490.

These proposals commended themselves generally to the Government of Bengal, and a resolution inviting public criticisms thereon was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd June 1915. The matter is still under consideration.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Agricultural classes.

7. Before the outbreak of the European war there were expectations of a prosperous year. The sudden fall in the price of jute in consequence of the war told heavily on the raiyats who had employed labour at high rates in expectation of high prices. Insufficient rainfall in Septemher and October caused injury to the winter rice in parts of Eastern Bengal.

Wages and Salaries.

8. The professional classes, traders, artisans and labourers suffered from the dislocation of trade caused by the war and the depressed condition of the cultivators.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

Revenue and Cesses.

9. There was an increase of Rs. 1,90,604 in the land revenue demand and of Rs. 1,89,607 in that for road and public works cesses. But the collections under both heads suffered considerably owing to the depression in the jute market caused by the European war, the percentages coming down to 97·75 and 96·9 from 98·52 and 100·2, respectively, in the previous year.

SURVEYS.

Arrangements for the control of survey operations.

10. Major F. C. Hirst, I. A., continued to hold the office of the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam. It was arranged between this Government and the Assam Administration that while the work in each province should be carried on by separate parties, the staff for supervision and control should remain joint for a further period of two years, *i.e.*, up to March 1916, after which it would be decided whether the existing arrangements should continue, or whether it would be more convenient for the two provinces to have entirely separate departments, each under a whole-time officer. The staff consists of the Director of Surveys with his office, and two Assistant Directors, one in charge of the work in Bengal and the other of the work in Assam. The services of these two officers are, however, interchangeable during the field season at the discretion of the Director of Surveys.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

Organization of a graded service of Settlement Kanungos.

11. With the expansion of settlement operations in the Presidency and the introduction of improved methods of work the number of Settlement Kanungos and the importance of their duties has steadily increased. For the proper performance of those duties a high standard of character and education is essential, but the conditions of the service have remained stationary and were far from being attractive. Government recognised that some improvement in the pay and prospects of these officers was necessary. It was, however, thought undesirable to reorganise the service finally until the reports of the Public Service Commission and the District Administration Committee had been fully considered. As a temporary measure, therefore, the Kanungos were divided into five grades with pay ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200. Rules for recruitment of candidates were framed and published.

New Rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

12. The rules made by the late Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam under sub-section (7) of section 39 sub-section (2) of section 61, section 134, and section 189 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were scrutinised, co-ordinated, and revised, so that they might be applicable to all parts of the Presidency of Bengal as now constituted where the Act is in force. The new Rules were published in December 1914.

Reorganization of Kanungo service in Bengal.

13. Detailed improvements in the position of Kanungos in Bengal in respect of their pay, prospects and travelling allowance, were finally settled during the year and orders on the subject were issued. It has been decided that in order to attract a better and more efficient class of candidates, to widen the field of selection and to secure a more even flow of promotion the Kanungo service should, instead of being on graded pay, as hitherto, be on a time scale of pay of Rs. 60 per mensem rising by quadrennial increments of Rs. 10 to Rs. 120. Increments when they fall due will be granted only with the sanction of the Commissioners of Divisions, who have been authorized to withhold the whole or a portion of the increment in any case they think fit. The appointment, distribution and posting of the staff of Kanungos in

each division have been left as hitherto to the discretion of the Commissioner. The orders were given effect to from 1st September 1914.

Training of District Kanungos in survey work.

14. In order to increase the utility of Collectorate Kanungos in Bengal, it was decided by Government to give the younger members of the staff a proper training in survey for six months at the school opened at Comilla by the Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam. Three Kanungos from the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions, were accordingly deputed to the school last cold weather, and underwent a course of training.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Number of estates and general remarks.

15. There were 57 estates under the management of the Court during the year, of which 4 were released. The percentage of collections on current demand fell from 99·9 to 84·7. The fall is chiefly attributed to the dislocation of the jute trade caused by the European war, and the damage to crops by want of rain in certain areas. The cost of management for the whole Province was 12·4 per cent. of the current rent and cess demand against 12·6 per cent. in the previous year, the standard of 10 per cent. being exceeded in all the Divisions.

Training of minor Wards in Survey and Settlement work.

16. In accordance with the arrangement to give minors under the Court of Wards some training in Survey and Settlement work, two wards attended the camp held during the field season of 1914-15, with satisfactory results.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

17. Though there are indications that in the Dacca Division, where the preparation of the record-of-rights has progressed further than elsewhere, the knowledge of the law is increasing, the levy of abwabs and other illegal exactions in addition to the rent is still widely prevalent, and yet no suit under section 75 of the Act was instituted during the year.

There was a decrease in the number of rent money-orders issued which is attributed to the fact that fewer people paid rent than in normal years: the percentage of rent money-orders refused has continued to decrease, being 18·5 as compared with 20·3 in the previous year and 25·1 in the year before.

The depression in the jute trade and the partial failure of crop led to a general increase in the number of voluntary transfers of tenancies. During the year two important questions regarding the transfers of tenancies have been under the consideration of Government, viz., a proposal to legalise, subject to certain restrictions, the transfer of occupancy holdings without the landlord's consent, and a proposal to restrict the right of transfer in the case of aboriginal tribes in order to save them from parting with their lands in favour of money-lenders.

Rent money-orders.

18 It was brought to the notice of Government that in many cases landlords did not accept rent remitted by money-order from an alleged apprehension that its acceptance would operate as an admission

as to the correctness of the entries regarding the rent, the area and other conditions and incidents of the tenancy. With a view to remove this objection the form of rent money-order has been revised, the number of entries being cut down so as to comply with the bare requirements of section 55 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Extension of the Bengal Embankment Act to the Sundarbans.

19. The Embankment Acts in force in the Sundarbans did not contain any provision for controlling the erection of private embankments. Having regard to physical conditions which exist in the Sundarbans and the necessity for preserving from deterioration the tidal channels which are relied on for drainage and navigation it was considered necessary that Government should possess the same powers in regard to embankments in this area as in the adjoining permanently-settled estates. Legislation was accordingly undertaken to extend to the Sundarbans, the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882, and the extant portions of the Bengal Embankment Act, 1873, and to repeal the Bengal Embankment Acts, 1855 and 1866, in force in the Sundarbans so as to bring the Embankment law of the Sundarbans into line with that of the rest of Bengal. The Bill was passed as Bengal Act IV of 1915.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

20. During the year 1914-15 seven Acts (Nos. V, VI and VII of 1914 and Nos. I, II, III and IV of 1915) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council and became law during or shortly after the close of that year. Of these, the more important Acts are Bengal Act V of 1914 [The Chittagong Port Act, 1914], Bengal Act VI of 1914 [The Bengal Medical Act, 1914] and Bengal Act III of 1915 [The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1915]. Each Act is further discussed under the head "Course of Legislation," in Part II of this Report.

POLICE.

Military Police.

21. A complete reorganization of the Military Police was sanctioned during the year.

Increase to pay of Head Constables and Constables.

22. The rates of pay fixed in 1905 on the recommendation of the Police Commission were found inadequate, and orders were passed during the year sanctioning an increase in the pay of the rank and file. The net increase in expenditure amounts approximately to Rs. 5,38,686 a year.

Training School.

23. A Training School for the Calcutta Police force was started in the Dullunda buildings from the 1st October 1914.

Juvenile Court.

24. A Juvenile Court and House of Detention for Juvenile Offenders, arrested or convicted within the town of Calcutta, was established at No. 85, Lower Circular Road.

Budge-Budge Riot.

25. On the 29th September 1914 a riot took place at Budge-Budge, near Calcutta, for which some of the passengers by the S. S. *Komagata Maru*, who were returning from an abortive attempt to enter Canada *viâ* Vancouver, were responsible. The riot was suppressed with the help of the military but not before some lives had been lost among the rioters, the police and the bystanders.

Political Crime.

26. The activities of the revolutionary party were stimulated by the outbreak of the war and seditious leaflets were circulated in unusually large numbers during the year. The cases connected with revolutionary crime included 6 dacoities, 1 attempt at dacoity, 4 assassination and 1 attempt at assassination. Two of the men assassinated were police officers, an Inspector of the Calcutta Police and a Head Constable of the Bengal Police. Arrests were made in connection with three of the murders but the accused persons were eventually acquitted.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

27. During the year 1914, there was an increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates in the *Mufassal*. There was a very large decrease in the amount of work disposed of by the stipendiary Presidency Magistrates; on the other hand, a substantial increase occurred in the outturn of the Honorary Magistrates. Magistrates disposed of more appellate, but less revisional work. In the Courts of Session there was an increase of original, but a decrease of both appellate and revisional work. In the High Court there was a slight decrease in appellate and revisional work.

Special Bench, High Court.

28. Two cases were tried by a Special Bench of the High Court during the year under review. In one case, an appeal was filed against the order of the Government of India forfeiting all copies of the issue of the *Comrade* newspaper published at Delhi, on the 26th September 1914, and the security which had been deposited in respect of the press at which the newspaper was printed. In the other case, proceedings were instituted by the Crown against one Nagendra Nath Sen Gupta in connection with the explosion of two bombs thrown into the house of a Deputy Superintendent of Police in Mussulmanpara Lane, Calcutta, which resulted in the death of a Head Constable. In the former case the appeal was dismissed. In the latter case, the accused was acquitted.

JAILS.

Pension of Head Warders.

29. Orders were passed during the year directing that the Head Warders of Jails should be allowed to count the whole of their service, including their service as Warders, for pension on the superior scale.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

30. In the year 1914 there was a large decrease in the original work coming before the courts subordinate to the High Court, but as a result of diminished outturn, chiefly in the courts of Munsifs, the pending file increased. There was an appreciable increase in the appellate disposals, but the pending file became heavier owing to a rise in institutions. The number of year old suits and appeals was greater than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, the institutions were less than in 1913; and increased disposals led to a substantial reduction in the pending file.

REGISTRATION.

Appointment of a 4th Inspector of Registration offices.

31. The increase in the number of Registration offices rendered it necessary to increase the inspecting staff and the post of a 4th Inspector was accordingly created during the year for the better supervision of offices.

Revision of rules for the recruitment of Sub-Registrars.

32. The system of recruiting a probationer in the Registration Department for each individual vacancy as it occured was discontinued and rules were published for recruiting probationary Sub-Registrars once a year as is done in the case of probationary Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors.

Rules regarding the special test of Sub-Registrars for District Sub-Registrarships.

33. In order to test the fitness of Sub-Registrars for performing the duties of a District Sub-Registrar, rules were published for holding a special examination of these officers annually or at such intervals as the Inspector-General of Registration may determine.

Increase of the strength of leave reserve.

34. With a view to dispense with the employment of outsiders in leave vacancies, the strength of the leave reserve was increased from 8 to 12 per cent. of the sanctioned posts, and 15 posts were accordingly added to the fifth grade of Sub-Registrars.

Rules for the examination and confirmation of Probationary Muhammadan Marriage Registrars.

35. In supersession of the rules prescribed by the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the examination and confirmation of Probationary Muhammadan Marriage Registrars, revised rules were published for use throughout the Presidency.

Rules under Section 144 (2) of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

36. In exercise of the power conferred on Local Government by section 144 (2) of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), rules were published providing for the grant of certificates entitling the holders to act as auditors of Companies, and the conditions and restrictions governing the grant of such certificates. The issues of certificates is confined to—

(1) members of four specified bodies of British Accountants who have had at least five years' practical experience in auditing accounts; and

(2) any other persons with similar practical experience who can satisfy the Local Government as to their competency.

The period for which a certificate remains in force is fixed at two years, provided that subject to cancellation under the rules, the Local

Government may in exceptional cases issue a certificate without any limitation of period.

Twenty-eight certificates were issued during the year, all being for a period of two years. Twenty-four of these were restricted certificates which entitled the holders to audit the account of companies within the limits of the Presidency only; the remaining four were unrestricted certificates enabling the holders to conduct audits throughout British India.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Extension of certain sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act to the Howrah Municipality.

37. A number of important sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act, III of 1899, were extended, with suitable modifications and restrictions to the Howrah Municipality during the year.

Remission of certain contributions levied from local bodies for services performed on their behalf by officers of Government.

38. The Government of India sanctioned the remission, with effect from 1914-15, of contributions formerly levied from District Boards and Municipalities on account of services performed on their behalf by the officers of Government in connection with land acquisition, and from District Boards on account of stationery supplied to the Road Cess Department of Collectors' offices.

Appointment of a whole-time President of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal.

39. Dr. S. C. Banerji was appointed for two years with effect from 21st September 1914 to perform the functions of the President of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal.

Amendment of Section 63 of the Calcutta Improvement Act.

40. Section 63 of the Calcutta Improvement Act, V of 1911, was amended by Bengal Act III, 1915, so as to confer upon the Board of Trustees, in regard to any area within the Calcutta Municipality as well as in its neighbourhood, the power to make plans of proposed public streets showing their direction, the street alignment on each side and their intended width, together with such other details as may appear desirable.

Extension of section 100 of the Local Self-Government Act to District Boards.

41. Section 100 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act III of 1885 as amended by Act V of 1908 was extended to the District Boards of all the districts in the Presidency to enable them to establish and maintain veterinary dispensaries, to appoint and pay qualified persons, to prevent and treat diseases of horses, cattle and other animals, to provide for the improvement of the food of horses and cattle and to make grants-in-aid for these purposes and for agricultural improvements.

Transfer of the surpluses accruing from pounds to District Boards and Union Committees in Eastern Bengal.

42. Under sections 52 (3) and 56 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885, the surpluses accruing under section 18 of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, formed part of the District and Union funds, but since their amendment by Bengal Act V of 1908 these sections require that the surpluses should be specifically assigned to the respective funds under section 31 of the Cattle Trespass Act. Bengal Act V of 1908 was extended to the eastern districts by Bengal Act I of 1914 and orders were accordingly issued directing the credit of pound surpluses to the District and Union funds in those districts.

Formation of new Union Committees.

43. New Union Committees were established during the year at Goalpara and Phultola in the Khulna district, at Dantan in the Midnapore district and at Dhobapara, Dhaniakhali and Guptipara in the Hooghly district.

VOLUNTEERS.

The Calcutta Scottish Volunteers.

44. In December 1913, a scheme for the formation of a new Volunteer Corps under the name of the Calcutta Scottish Volunteers was submitted to the Government of Bengal. The proposal was strongly supported by the local military authorities, and, on the recommendation of the Government of Bengal, it was sanctioned by the Government of India during the year under review.

MARINE.

Port of Calcutta.

45. The scheme for the lighting of the river Hooghly between Mud Point and Saugor for the purpose of navigation by night, which was sanctioned by Government last year, was completed during the year under report, and the restriction against night navigation in that stretch of the river was withdrawn. For the present only outward-bound vessels are permitted to use the lighted channels. When the war is over the permission will be extended to inward-bound vessels.

Revised and consolidated rules were issued under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, for the guidance of Masters of Vessels and Port Health Officers for preventing the spread of infectious diseases by means of ships entering or leaving the ports of Bengal.

In order to improve the mechanical training of Engine-drivers of Government vessels, and to ensure the supply of competent men a special training class was started at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, Kidderpore.

The number of vessels entering and leaving the port of Calcutta during the year was 1,431 and 1,451 representing gross tonnage of 6,006,581 and 6,099,433, against 1,649 and 1,659 vessels representing gross tonnage of 6,926,817 and 6,961,807, respectively, in the previous year.

Calcutta Port Trust.

46. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,44,50,349 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,55,38,839, against Rs. 1,51,28,435 and Rs. 1,56,61,451, respectively, in the previous year. There was thus a deficit of Rs. 10,88,490. The revenues of the port were adversely affected owing to dislocation of traffic caused by the war. The Commissioners were accordingly authorised to levy, as a temporary measure, additional charges on goods (excluding coal and pig iron) and on the shipping of the port, with effect from 1st February 1915.

The total expenditure on capital works was Rs. 85,92,560. The following were the more important works sanctioned by Government during the year :—

(*i*) Purchase of a third suction dredger for the improvement of the navigable channels leading to the port of Calcutta.

(*ii*) Carrying the Port Trust Railway lines by means of a subway under the Calcutta approach road to the Howrah Bridge in replacement of the level crossing.

(*iii*) Construction of 5 new riverside berths at Garden Reach as part of the Calcutta Port Improvement Scheme. This was recommended by the Port Facilities Enquiry Committee.

The Commissioners were also authorized to raise a debenture loan of one crore of rupees bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum repayable in 60 years for expenditure on capital works. The capital debt of the Trust at the end of the year stood at Rs. 11,44,39,854 against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 13,05,11,586.

The Calcutta Port Act, 1890, was amended to provide for the grant of pension on retirement to Vice-Chairmen who are not Government servants previous to their appointment to the Port Trust.

Chittagong Port Trust.

47. The Chittagong Port Commissioners Act, 1887, was repealed by a new Chittagong Port Act, 1914, which was brought into force on the 1st July 1914. Some of the regular periodic services of coasting and inland steamers calling at Chittagong were, however, exempted, for the present, from the operation of section 43 of the new Act, which provides for the compulsory use of the jetties, wharves, etc., provided by the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, or the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Sanction was also given to the purchase by the Commissioners of Grab dredgers for removing silt opposite the railway jetties.

The proposal of the Commissioners to raise the rate of river dues from two to four annas per ton and to levy a surcharge of 25 per cent. on account of hire of moorings and hauling in and out of moorings, was sanctioned from 1st April 1915, as a temporary measure to meet the loss of revenue due to decrease of traffic caused by the war.

The number of vessels (including native sailing craft) that entered the port was 714 with a net registered tonnage of 363,760, against 753 with a net registered tonnage of 457,102 in the previous year.

Bengal Steam-boiler Commission.

48. The Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879, was amended in order to remove certain defects in the Act.

War Section.

49. Several matters in connection with the war were dealt with confidentially in the war section of the Marine Department.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Formation of the cadres of the Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural Services.

50. Hitherto the subordinate establishments of the Agricultural Department have been heterogeneous, but co-ordination was required in order to secure energy in the officers and progress in the work of the department. During the year regular cadres for the Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural Services were formed. The Provincial Service consists of one class only on pay of Rs. 200—10—400, while, as a tentative measure, the Subordinate Service was divided into two

classes, viz., class I on Rs. 100—5—200, and class II on Rs. 50—2-8—100. The recruitment of the members of these two services will ordinarily be made by direct appointment, but promotions will occasionally be made from among officers in the class below to the Provincial or the higher Subordinate Service. The chief qualifications required for the Provincial Service are training in agriculture abroad and those for class I of the Subordinate Service a degree or certificate given by an Agricultural College in India.

The grading of the Subordinate Agricultural Service is still under consideration.

Rules defining the duties of the Superintendents of Agriculture and District Agricultural Officers.

51. Rules were framed and issued during the year defining the duties of Superintendents of Agriculture and District Agricultural Officers and their relations with District Officers and Divisional Commissioners as well as with the Director and Deputy Director of Agriculture.

Rules relating to the duties of fieldmen demonstrators.

52. Similar rules were also framed and issued for fieldmen demonstrators.

Publication of Jute Forecasts.

53. A change was introduced during the year in the method of publication of the jute forecasts. Under the previous arrangements copies of the forecasts relating to each district were forwarded to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and to the Director of Agriculture simultaneously and were published at the district offices on the morning of the day on which in the ordinary course of the post they might be expected in Calcutta. Under the new system the supply of the copy of the district forecast to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence by district officers is discontinued and a copy is sent by them, only to the Director of Agriculture, who arranges with the Director of Statistics regarding its publication in Calcutta. In the case of the preliminary forecast, the Director of Agriculture informs the District officers by telegram of the date on which it will be published in Calcutta, and it is published at the district offices on the morning of that date, while in the case of the final forecast the Director of Agriculture makes arrangements in consultation with District Officers at the conferences held in September, so that the forecast for each district may be published simultaneously in Calcutta and at the district offices.

This new procedure has been adopted also by the Government of Bihar and Orissa and the Administration of Assam.

Depression in jute trade owing to the outbreak of war.

54. During the year a record area under jute produced a bumper crop. But the outbreak of war at harvest time resulted in the collapse of the jute market. The foreign demand for jute practically ceased for the time being, while the trade with Germany and Austria, which consumed more than a quarter of the raw jute exported from India, was entirely cut off. Consequently the only purchasers of jute were the Calcutta mills, which already had large stocks in hand. The raids of the *Emden* and the lack of shipping, however, threatened the interruption of the trade in gunnies and there was at one time some apprehension that the Calcutta mills might have to close down. The first effect of the collapse of the Calcutta jute market on the mufassal was to lead the raiyats to hold up their crop in the hope of a recovery of prices. The cultivators generally could not, however, afford to maintain this

attitude indefinitely. This situation affected the general prosperity and well-being of the jute districts, but no signs of serious distress appeared up to the end of the year 1914, except in a limited area in the Dacca district, where relief was promptly afforded by the grant of agricultural loans to the poorer cultivators and gratuitous relief to the landless labourers. These measures proved sufficient to allay distress. Subsequently the situation improved with the re-opening of the foreign markets after the capture of the *Emden* and the supply of additional shipping facilities, but the price of raw jute on the Calcutta market remained low and left a very small margin of profit to the raiyat.

Seed selection.

55. The Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture in India to consider the question of the cultivation of rice discussed the subject of seed selection, and they were of opinion that the work should be done under control at the Agricultural farms. A considerable amount of work was done during the year 1913-14 in this direction in raiyats' fields by demonstrators under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officers and Superintendents of Agriculture. There are two systems of seed selection, which are known as "plant-to-plant selection" and "single-line culture." The former is a rough-and-ready method under which raiyats reserve for seed the most vigorous plants, but do not keep the seeds from individual plants separate. The latter is a scientific method under which the seeds obtained from individual plants are kept separate and by a comparison of the produce of the seeds of numerous plants an attempt is made to obtain by experiment the best single line for seed. The advantage of the former system is that it is capable of application by the raiyats on their own fields, and it is reported to have given relatively good results. The latter system can only be followed on the land which is under the direct control of experts, but it affords better facilities for obtaining the best seeds.

The two systems are being adopted, both in respect of rice and in respect of jute.

Sericulture.

56. During the year the scheme for the supply, under Government supervision, of pure seed cocoons to rearers by the establishment throughout the silk districts of a number of central nurseries continued to receive the attention of the Sericultural Department. A further step towards the improvement of the industry was taken by the grant of Rs. 5,615 for initial expenditure and of an annual subsidy of Rs. 5,000 for five years to Miss Cleghorn of Ballygunge in Calcutta, whose scientific researches for the production of a superior breed of silkworms in conjunction with her father Mr. James Cleghorn, late of the Public Works Department, Bengal, were recommended for Government encouragement by M. Grangeon, the Sericultural Expert, and the Bengal Silk Committee. It was arranged that with the help of the grant and subsidy Miss Cleghorn should start breeding operations on a large scale and that she should continue her experimental and research work on existing lines or on such other lines as might commend themselves to Government from time to time. The cocoons produced by her will be purchased at market rates and tried in the silk districts.

Lease of Government fisheries in Bengal.

57. It has been suggested that the present practice in regard to leasing Government fisheries encourages overfishing and the destruction of immature fish, and that the administration of these fisheries would

benefit by the advice of the Deputy Director of Fisheries. District officers have accordingly been asked to furnish the Deputy Director with a list of Government fisheries in their districts showing the rents at which they are leased and the dates on which existing leases expire. This will enable the Deputy Director to make local enquiries in selected cases and to advise the District officers, where necessary, regarding a change in the system of administration.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

58. The distribution of the rainfall of the year 1914 affected the outturn of the principal crops. Good rain in the early months of March, April and May resulted in good crops of *bhadoi* rice and jute. On the other hand deficient rain in September, October and November had a bad effect on the winter rice and the *rabi* crops.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Creation of a temporary post of Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengal, to be held by Mr. J. M. Mitra.

59. The post of Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bengal, is included in the regular grades of Magistrate and Collector, and this fact gave rise to difficulties in confirming the Officiating Registrar, Mr. J. M. Mitra, in the appointment. As there was, however, no suitable officer available who could replace Mr. Mitra and as his retention in this appointment was necessary for some time to come in the interests of Co-operative work in Bengal, the sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India was obtained to the creation of a temporary post of Registrar on Rs. 900 a month for a term of three years, to be held by Mr. J. M. Mitra and treated as a special post outside the grades of Magistrate and Collector so long as it is held by this officer.

FORESTS.

Protection and preservation of certain wild birds and animals under sections 2 and 3 of the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act.

60. In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, VIII of 1912, a notification was published by Government applying the provisions of the said Act to certain kinds of birds and animals which are not specified in the schedule to the Act, and in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the Act close seasons were prescribed for the birds and animals which it was considered desirable to protect and preserve in this Presidency, the whole year being declared as close time for some and a part of the year for others.

Rules regulating hunting, shooting, etc., in the reserved and protected forests in Bengal.

61. The rules which were in force in the two parts of the Presidency to regulate hunting, shooting, etc., within reserved and protected forests differed in many respects. These rules were also co-ordinated during the year, and revised rules on the subject were prescribed.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Development of industries.

62. On the outbreak of war in Europe and the cessation of imports from hostile countries, Mr. J. A. L. Swan, I. C. S., was

deputed to ascertain and report on the present position of such industries as the industrial surveys of 1890 and 1908 showed to be capable of expansion and also on the measures necessary for the encouragement and development of Indian industries. After consideration of the Report submitted by Mr. Swan Government came to the conclusion that the first essential was the appointment of a whole-time officer of Government whose duty it would be to keep in touch with all the smaller industries, to study their problems and enable them to obtain such advice, information and assistance as might be practicable. A proposal has accordingly been submitted to the Government of India for the creation of such an appointment, with the title of Director of Industries.

Constitution of a Mines Board of Health.

63. Under section 3 of the Bengal Mining Settlement Act, 1912 (Bengal Act II of 1912), a Mines Board of Health, constituted as follows, was appointed for the subdivision of Asansol, in the district of Burdwan :—

The District Magistrate of Burdwan—Chairman ...	*Ex-officio.*
The Subdivisional Officer of Asansol	
The Civil Surgeon of Burdwan	
The Inspector of Mines in India, Circle No. 2 ...	

Three members nominated by owners of mines or their representative.

One member nominated by receivers of royalties, rents or fines from mines.

WORKING OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

Exemptions under section 56 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

64. Owing to the European war the Ghoosery Rope Works at Howrah and the Army Clothing Factory at Alipore were exempted under section 56 of the Act from the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 22 for a certain period, and the Ammunition Factory, Dum-Dum, from the provisions of section 23 (*c*) for six months.

Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Bengal.

65. Pending the final orders of the Secretary of State on the arrangement for the certification of children under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, Captain J. C. Gillinon continued to act as a whole-time Certifying Surgeon in the immediate vicinity of Calcutta.

TRADE.

Foreign trade.

66. The value of the sea-borne trade (private merchandise only) of the Presidency of Bengal was Rs. 131·63 crores against Rs. 174·83 crores in 1913-14, a decrease of nearly 25 per cent. Of this total, the share of Calcutta was Rs. 127·33 crores against Rs. 168·59 crores in the preceding year.

Imports.

67. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 56·21 crores, showing a fall of 20 per cent. Each of the four classes (viz., I.—Food, drink and tobacco, II.—Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured, III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured and IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified) into which the sea-borne trade is classified for statistical purposes showed a decrease. "Articles wholly or mainly

manufactured" contributed 81 per cent. of the year's total, and accounted for 86 per cent. of the total decrease of 14·48 crores. This decrease was due to lesser imports of manufactures of iron and steel, cotton fabrics, machinery of all kinds (especially jute machinery hardware and cutlery, electrical instruments, motor-cars and cycles and glass). "Food, drink and tobacco" held the second place in point of value, representing 13·5 per cent. of the total imports, and about 12 per cent. of the total decrease. There was a decrease of 25 per cent. in sugar and 18 per cent. in liquors and salt. Smaller receipts of stick lac, metallic-ores and wood pulp account for the decline in class II, the share of which was 4·7 per cent. to the total imports. The falling off in class IV consisted chiefly in horses. Of the total imports, 74·1 per cent. came from the United Kingdom as compared with 71·2 per cent. in 1913-14. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were—Java 8·1, Germany 2·2, the United States of America 2·8, Japan 2·9, the Straits Settlements 2·3, Belgium ·9 and Austria-Hungry ·6 per cent.

Exports.

68. The total value of exports from the Presidency was Rs. 74·47 crores, a decline of Rs. 28·28 crores or 27·5 per cent. Of this trade Calcutta claims about 95·5 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, contributing 52 per cent. of the total. The United Kingdom maintained her premier position absorbing 33·2 per cent. of the exports from Calcutta. The United States was second with 20·8 per cent., other British possessions with 14·6 per cent., and South America and Germany with 4·8 and 4·4 per cent., respectively.

Trans-frontier trade.

69. The value of the trans-frontier trade (merchandise only) was Rs. 108 lakhs. Some 40 per cent. was with Sikkim, while the shares of Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan were 28, 28 and 4 per cent. respectively. The total trade with Sikkim amounted to Rs. 44 lakhs, of which imports into Bengal were valued at Rs. 28 lakhs. The trade with Nepal amounted to Rs. 30 lakhs. Imports from Tibet were valued at Rs. 18 lakhs, and exports to that country at Rs. 11 lakhs. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 4·66 lakhs.

Coasting trade.

70. The value of the coasting trade of the Presidency declined from Rs. 29·7 crores to Rs. 23·3 crores or by 21 per cent. Of this 70·4 per cent. was with Burma, 10·6 per cent. with Madras, 8·3 per cent. with Bombay. Imports fell from Rs. 15·39 crores to 14·45 crores owing to lesser receipts of oils mineral and vegetable, teakwood, raw cotton and cotton piece-goods. The exports receded by Rs. 5·45 crores or 38 per cent. The articles chiefly responsible for this shrinkage were jute manufactures, coal and grain and pulse.

Rail and river-borne trade.

71. The total value of the trade carried by rail and river was Rs. 200 crores as against Rs. 220 crores in 1913-14. Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 54 crores as compared with Rs. 58 crores in the preceding year. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces rose from Rs. 49·72 crores to Rs. 51·90 crores, an improvement of 4 per cent.

The Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884).

72. Of the 2,115 licenses granted under this Act 1,393 covered the manufacture, sale or possession of fireworks in a village or other rural

area. The majority of the remainder cover the manufacture, sale or possession of gunpowder, small arms, nitro-compounds and ammunition or fireworks. A theft of 111 pounds of gunpowder from the Municipal Magazine at Darjeeling was traced to a former municipal servant, who was found to be selling powder in Nepal; while under arrest in Nepal he escaped from custody and was at large at the end of the year.

Trading by Hostile Foreigners after the outbreak of war.

73. After the outbreak of war special measures were taken to control the trade or business of hostile foreigners. All hostile foreigners, and firms of which any member or officer was a hostile foreigner were, under the provisions of the Hostile Foreigners (Trading) Order, 1914, prohibited from trading without a license. In Bengal 83 licenses in all were issued under this Order. Of these 47 were granted to British allied or neutral firms, who on the outbreak of war had in their employ managers, officers or agents of enemy nationality, whom they subsequently discharged. These licenses entitled the holders to continue trading without supervision. Twenty licenses were issued to firms to carry on business under the supervision of the Controller of Hostile Firms, and 16 firms were granted licenses to carry on business only for the purpose of liquidating assets and paying debts. Six firms were shut down under clause 6 (2) of the same Order. Mr. E. E. Meugens of Messrs. Meugens, King & Co., Chartered Accountants, held the office of Controller throughout the period.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

Strength of the Department.

74. The strength of the Engineer establishment in Bengal is 48 and is composed of 32 Imperial and 16 Provincial Engineers. The superior posts of the department were allotted by the Government of India in August 1914 at 15 for Imperial and 8 for Provincial Engineers.

Recruitment of Provincial Engineers.

75. As regards the recruitment of Provincial Engineers, the system has hitherto been to recruit a B.E. student from the Sibpur Engineering College every year. This rate of recruitment has now been modified, as owing to the reduced cadre sanctioned for the Bengal Public Works Department on the reconstitution of the Province in April 1912, it is not possible to recruit a student every year. In order, however, to keep faith with the students of the Sibpur College who entered on the guarantee of one Government appointment a year, the Government of India have decided to give the qualified student in alternate years a State Railway appointment.

Delegation of power.

76. In order to decrease work in the Secretariat and in Public Works Department offices certain powers hitherto exercised by Government have been delegated to Superintending Engineers, the submission of some reports and returns which were not absolutely necessary have been discontinued, and others are now to be submitted at longer intervals.

Electrical Division.

77. The Electrical Division which has hitherto been temporary was made permanent with effect from the 1st January 1914 and placed in charge of a specially appointed Electrical Engineer.

Survey of the Hooghly.

78. In accordance with the recommendations of the Port Facilities Committee, a Special Officer was appointed to enquire into the

condition of the Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers. Major Hirst, I. A., who has had considerable practical experience of such work was entrusted with this duty.

Dacca University Division.

79. In connection with the Dacca University scheme a temporary Public Works Division was formed at Dacca on the 18th January 1915 and placed in charge of an experienced Engineer and staff.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial.

80. The most important Imperial works in progress during the year were the construction of the Salt *Golas* and the Post Office at Chittagong.

Provincial.

81. The Chief Provincial works completed or in progress were :—

(1) Works in connection with Government House at Darjeeling, and additions and alterations to Government House (Dilkhusa) at Dacca.

(2) The office of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division at Jalpaiguri.

(3) The new Secretariat for the Bengal Government offices when in residence at Dacca.

(4) In connection with Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts, the new Collectorate at Midnapore, and additions and alterations to the Collectorate at Barisal.

(5) In connection with Civil Courts, the new Civil Court at Bankura, and the District Judge's residence at Khulna.

(6) Among Jail works, the new Forms Store in connection with the press in the Central Jail at Alipore; and additions and alterations to the District Jail at Comilla.

(7) For the Police Department, Sergeants' Barracks at Lal Bazar; additions and alterations to premises No 2, Bankshall Street, to accommodate the Police Court which was removed from Lal Bazar; the police buildings at Paikpara; the buildings for the Military Police at Peelkhana, Dacca; the Reserve Police Lines at Chittagong; the Police Barracks at Bloomfield Spur, Darjeeling; works in connection with the Surda Police Training College and a large number of new police-stations in the Northern and Eastern Circles.

(8) For the Education Department the most important works were acquisition of land for (1) the Muhammadan Arts College and the Calcutta Madrassa; (2) the hostel for St. Xavier's College, Calcutta; (3) the David Hare Training College, Ballygunge; (4) the hostel for the Bangabasi College; and (5) the New University Institute, Calcutta; improvements and alterations in the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong: Sanitary works at Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong; the Physical Laboratory for the new Dacca University; the Dining Hall for the New College of the Dacca University; and the alterations to the Secretariat to convert it into a Muhammadan College for the Dacca University.

(9) Among medical works, the School of Tropical Medicines, Calcutta; and the new Diphtheria ward on the roof of the Medical College Hospital.

(10) Under contribution works, the New Chapel at the Presidency General Hospital, Bhowanipore, and the Infectious Diseases wards and the Nurses' Home for the Mitford Hospital at Dacca.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

82. The unmetalled portion of Calcutta-Jessore Road was metalled and the road boundaries were demarcated with stone pillars.

The widening of the Grand Trunk Road in the Asansol Subdivision from 8 to 12 feet was taken up.

Considerable progress was made in metalling 4¾ miles of the Hilli-Balurghat Road and the construction of steel pile bridge over the Jamuna river at Hilli was commenced.

The improvement of many roads in the Duars was in progress and the construction of Inspection bungalows and bridges on those roads was commenced.

At Chittagong the Strand Road was metalled and the Agrabad Road improved.

The bridges on the Rangamati-Mahalsory Road in Chittagong Hill Tracts were widened.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

83. At the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan a combined latrine and urinal was erected for the use of the public.

A tank at the south-west corner of the old Presidency Jail on the Calcutta Maidan was filled in, also a tank on the south of the Police Barracks at Sibpur.

The diversion of the *khal* between the Munsif's Court and new Civil Court at Munshiganj was carried out.

The encroachment of the coast at Noakhali by the river Megna was surveyed and the action of the river was watched carefully during the year.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

84. Six light railways are partially under the control of the Government of Bengal. The Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) control the larger and more important railway systems.

Mileage.

85. During the year 118·60 miles of new railway lines were opened for traffic, bringing the total mileage open to 2,841·17 miles.

Surveys.

86. Several surveys for new lines were completed during the year. The Railway Board also authorised the survey of several new projects.

Lines opened during the year.

87. The following important lines were opened during the year:—

(1) The Sara-Santahar Broad Gauge Extension, and

(2) the Bhairab Bazar-Tangi Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Lower Ganges Bridge.

88. Work on this was completed during the year. The bridge was opened on 4th March 1915 by His Excellency the Viceroy.

Important lines under construction.

89. The following important lines were under construction during the year :—

(1) Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway.
(2) Bankura-Damodar River Railway, and
(3) Sara-Serajganj Railway.

Bhairab Bazar-Mymensingh Railway.

90. Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. and Killick, Nixon & Co. obtained concessions for the construction of the Bhairab Bazar-Mymensingh Railway with branches under the Government of India's Branch Line terms.

Light Railways, Jessore-Jhenidah Railway.

91. This line, which was opened for passenger traffic in October 1913, had to be closed with effect from 1st August 1914, owing to deficiency of ballast and inefficient maintenance. It was re-opened for passenger traffic on 1st September 1914. Difficulties occurred in connection with the managing agency which, however, have since been settled by the appointment of Messrs. McLeod & Co.

CANALS.

Major Works.

92. The Major Irrigation Works in Bengal are the Midnapore and the Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The area irrigated during the year was 78,310 acres as compared with 80,179 acres during the preceding year. The revenue from these two canals amounted to Rs. 2,53,369 as against Rs. 2,46,372 during the previous year. The increase is under Midnapore Canal and is due to the collection of water rates for *boro* irrigation for the season 1913-14 having been made in 1914-15.

Minor Works.

93. The Minor Works for navigation are the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bhil Channel, a portion of the Orissa Coast Canal, the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighata and Baxi Khal, while the Eden Canal which is classed under this head is used for irrigation; the Utterbhag Lock which was practically completed during the year and opened for traffic on the 15th February 1915 is in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme and treated as a Minor Work for navigation. Training works on the rivers Ganges, Dhaleswari and Buriganga are also classed under this head. The capital outlay on works under this class for which Capital Accounts are kept, to end of the year stood at Rs. 1,25,12,842. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 4,29,591 as against Rs. 5,27,179 in the year 1913-14. The decrease is chiefly in the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bhil Channel and is due in the case of the former to depression in trade and a falling off in the imports of jute and in the latter case to the silting up of the western approaches at Manikdah and Loop Channel where about two miles were completely silted up dislocating the traffic for some months. There was also a decrease in the receipts from the Eden Canal due to failure of crops on account of short supply of water in the Damodar River.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

94. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 9,45,708 and on drainage works Rs. 1,17,397 during the year. **Expenditure.**

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

95. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 8,35,85,947 and the charges to Rs. 1,01,69,830 in comparison with Rs. 9,05,29,941 and Rs. 97,40,740, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease in receipts was mainly under the head Customs and was due to the dislocation of trade owing to the outbreak of the European war. There was also a considerable decline in Stamps owing to the collapse of the jute market. The increase of expenditure occurred mainly under Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation on account of the purchase of special dredging plant for the maintenance of waterways. There was also larger expenditure under Refunds and Drawbacks due to heavy repayments of Customs duty on the re-exportation of Java sugar to the United Kingdom, under Land Revenue as survey and settlement work was still expanding and under Miscellaneous owing to special charges on account of the war. **Imperial Finance.**

EXCISE.

96. The necessity for the revision of the staff of the Excise and Salt Departments had been long felt, and proposals for the reorganization and amalgamation of the two departments were drawn up prior to the reconstitution of Provinces in 1912. A revised scheme had, however, to be framed as a result of the Provincial changes. The main features of the scheme, which has now been sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and is being gradually brought into effect, are:— **Reorganization and amalgamation of the Excise and Salt Departments.**

(1) The formation of a close Excise and Salt service for the Presidency, and the dissociation, as far as possible, from Excise work of officers entrusted with revenue and judicial functions.

(2) The creation of two appointments of Deputy Commissioners, on Rs. 850—50—1,000 per mensem, to replace the existing Inspector of Excise and the Assistant Commissioner of Salt in charge of the districts of the 24-Parganas and Khulna. The duties of these officers will consist mainly in inspection and advisory work, the supervision of the preventive staff and the co-ordination of the preventive operations.

(3) The creation of a staff of 26 Excise Superintendents, on pay ranging from Rs. 250 to Rs. 700 per mensem, with an additional probationary Superintendent on Rs. 150 per mensem.

The scheme provides for the appointment in each district of a special Excise officer who will hold entire charge of district Excise administration in subordination to the Collector, with regard to whom he will occupy a position similar to that of the Superintendent of Police in police matters. Superintendents will be appointed to all districts, except Howrah, Bogra and Noakhali, in which it is proposed for the present to put an Inspector in charge. The Chief Preventive Officer in Calcutta and the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Excise, hitherto recruited from other services, are included in the number of Superintendents.

(4) The improvement of the pay and grading and the strengthening of the numbers of the existing distillery, warehouse and preventive staff, so as to ensure greater efficiency. Fifty-five Inspectors will be appointed on pay ranging from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 to replace the old Deputy Inspector class. The number of Sub-Inspectors has been raised from 169 to 237 and their pay from Rs. 30 rising to Rs. 80, to Rs. 50 rising to Rs. 100.

(5) A similar revision of the staff of petty officers, peons and clerks and the amalgamation of the district clerical Excise establishments with the Collector's establishments.

Bengal Excise (Amendment) Act, 1914 (Bengal Act VII of 1914).

97. After the constitution of the new Presidency of Bengal with effect from the 1st April 1912, there were two Excise Acts in force, namely, the Bengal Excise Act, No. V of 1909, in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and the district of Darjeeling, and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Act, No. I of 1910, in the Dacca, Rajshahi (with the exception of the district of Darjeeling) and Chittagong Divisions (omitting the Chittagong Hill Tracts). As there were some slight differences in the Acts and it was found inconvenient and undesirable to retain both the Acts in force in different parts of the Presidency, it was decided to adopt the Bengal Act for the whole Presidency, and to make such alterations as were necessary to adapt it to the circumstances of Eastern Bengal.

The opportunity was taken to eliminate all references to the Board of Revenue in accordance with the decision that the administration of Excise should be directly under Government, and to strengthen the law in two particulars, first, by increasing the penalties for offences in connection with cocaine, and secondly by amending the definition "of liquor" so as to make it clear that all liquid containing alcohol is brought within the provision of the Excise Act, even though the alcoholic strength is weak enough to make it doubtful whether the liquor can be classed as intoxicating. The new Act, after receiving the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, came into force on the 1st November 1914 as Bengal Act VII of 1914.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial finance.

98. The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 6,22,55,000 and Rs. 6,70,49,000, respectively, against Rs. 6,21,42,000 and Rs. 6,16,61,000

in 1913-14. The increase in receipts was mainly due to special assignments made to Provincial Revenues on account of grants to the Calcutta University for hostels and further grants for the improvement of education and the Dacca University. Against this increase there were decreases under Land Revenue, Stamps, Excise, Forests, Registration and Ports and Pilotage, owing to the sudden outbreak of hostilities in Europe in August 1914 which led to a dislocation of trade and business in general and the collapse of the jute market in particular. The increases in expenditure chiefly occurred under Civil Works, Education, Police, Irrigation, Courts of Law, Land Revenue, Medical, Agriculture and Jails The increases under Civil Works, Education, Medical and Agriculture were principally on account of larger expenditure from the Imperial grants for the development of Education, Sanitation and Agriculture. The increase under Police was mainly due to the enhancement of constables' pay and the introduction of other police reforms; under Irrigation, to the purchase of dredging plant; under Courts of law, to legal expenses in connection with political cases; under Land Revenue, to growth of survey and settlement work; and under Jails to special purchases of European stores, blankets and machinery for the Dacca Jail.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

99. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,16,15,291 and the charges to Rs. 1,24,84,653. The closing balance being reduced from Rs. 57,34,867 to Rs. 48,66,505. The decrease in the balance is chiefly due to the utilisation by District Boards of their enhanced resources from the Public Works Cess, which could not be spent in 1913-14, as schemes and plans were not then ready. Eleven Union Committees in the districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Faridpur opened accounts at the local treasuries, while the Chittagong Port Fund ceased to bank with the Government treasury on the transfer of its account to the local branch of the Bank of Bengal. The new Dacca Cantonment Fund, which started with a grant of Rs. 1,112 from the Military Department, opened an account with the local branch of the Bank of Bengal. The designation of the fund hitherto called "The Hindu College Fund" was changed during the year to "The Presidency College Graduate Scholarship Fund." Owing to the economic stringency brought on by the war the income of the Zoological Garden from entrance fees was greatly diminished.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

The Bengal Medical Act, 1914, Bengal Act VI of 1914.

100. A bill to provide for the registration of qualified medical practitioners in Bengal was passed into law in May 1914 as the Bengal Medical Act VI of 1914. Its main objects are to provide a

means of protecting the public and the medical profession from irregularly qualified practitioners, and to afford facilities for ascertaining whether any particular medical practitioner possesses recognised qualifications.

Council of Medical Registration.

101. A Council of Medical Registration was constituted under the Act with effect from the 20th October 1914 and consists of a president and 14 members, elected and nominated. The Act confers upon the Medical Council the duties of general supervision over the interests of the medical profession and the progress of medical education, and it rests with that body to decide when the training and equipment of a school or college are such as to justify the grant of a registrable qualification to its successful students.

State Medical Faculty.

102. To meet the situation caused by the discontinuance of the University Examination for the License in Medicine and Surgery which shut out a considerable body of candidates who while unable to attain to the highest qualifications are yet above the standard of those who pass out from the Government Medical Schools and are quite capable of profiting by a wider course of training than that prescribed for these schools, a separate body of Examiners called 'the Bengal State Medical Faculty" was constituted in August 1914. This body will examine and certify to the qualifications of those medical students who are unable to attain to the high standard required for the M.B. degree of the Calcutta University. The Faculty will grant a diploma of membership and a license, the former corresponding to the L.M.S., previously granted by the Calcutta University, and the latter to the certificate given by the Government Medical Schools. These qualifications will be recognised by the Bengal Council of Medical Registration as registrable under section 18(*a*) of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914. The Governing Body of the Faculty are appointed by the Governor in Council.

School of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta.

103. The building for the School of Tropical Medicine at Calcutta, the foundation-stone of which was laid by His Excellency Lord Carmichael on the 24th February 1914, has been nearly completed. Questions relating to the staff and the equipment required for the school are now under consideration.

Appointment of Imperial Serologist.

104. Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Sutherland, I.M.S., who had been deputed by the Government of India to the Medical College for a temporary period with effect from the 27th September 1912 to instruct selected medical officers in serological work and give expert advice in regard to exhibits sent to him in medico-legal cases, was appointed "Imperial Serologist" as an experimental measure for two years from the 1st March 1914. He has been appointed "a Chemical Examiner to Government," for the purposes of section 510 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Extension of Lepers Act.

105. A portion of the Leper Asylum maintained at Bankura by the Mission to Lepers in India and the East was constituted a Leper Asylum for the purposes of the Lepers Act, 1898, and the district of Bankura was specified under the provisions of the Act as the local area from which lepers might be sent to that Asylum. Section 9 of the Lepers Act was also extended to this district. Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Act were extended to the Darjeeling Municipality.

Joint cadre of Indian Medical Service for Bengal and Assam.

106. In consequence of the territorial changes made in 1912, the Government of India in consultation with the Governments of Bengal and Assam sanctioned the constitution of a joint cadre of the Indian Medical Service for the two Provinces. In constituting this joint cadre the relative claims to seniority of the officers already in permanent civil employ in the two Provinces were examined by the Government of India and the position held by each officer on the combined list was also determined. In respect of the temporary Indian Medical Service officers the Government of India also determined the position of these officers on a combined list for the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam.

Belgachia Institution.

107. In Bengal instruction in the higher branches of medical education has hitherto been confined to the Medical College, Calcutta, and the number of candidates for such education has been limited by the accommodation provided in that College. It is not possible to increase this accommodation without the provision of another College. The Committee of the Albert Victor Institution at Belgachia therefore approached Government with a scheme for affiliating the Institution to the University and providing a second fully equipped College for higher medical education. The scheme provides for the improvement of, and additions to, the building and equipment of the hospital and existing school at an estimated cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs. The recurring cost of the school and hospital has been placed at Rs. 1,20,000 a year. The proposals have received the full sympathy of Government and the sanction of the Secretary of State has been obtained to a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs from Provincial Revenues towards the initial cost of the scheme and a recurring annual grant of Rs. 50,000 towards the maintenance charges on condition that the authorities of the Institution shall themselves raise 2½ lakhs towards the additions and improvements and obtain annual grants amounting to Rs. 30,000 from Municipalities and Rs. 10,000 from the University of Calcutta. It has also been laid down as a condition of these grants that the Belgachia Institution should cease at once to have any further connection with vernacular or school education and should erect buildings and set up equipment necessary to obtain affiliation to the M.B. course from the Calcutta University.

Lady Carmichael's scheme for training of Indian Nurses.

108. Impressed by the absence of proper nursing arrangements in mufassal hospitals generally Her Excellency Lady Carmichæl has initiated a scheme for training Indian nurses. The scheme has been introduced experimentally at the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, and at St. Andrew's Colonial Homes and Charteris Hospital, Kalimpong.

Promotion of Sub-Assistant Surgeons to the rank of Civil Assistant Surgeons.

109. With a view to improve the prospects of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and to assimilate their position to that of officers in other subordinate services, the Government of India have empowered all Local Governments and Administrations to promote Sub-Assistant Surgeons to the rank of Civil Assistant Surgeons with the pay and privileges attached thereto. The concession which is to be strictly confined to a few men with not less than 20 years' service and possessing very exceptional professional attainments, was granted to senior Sub-Assistant Surgeons Rai N. C. Sen Bahadur (since deceased) and Rai Sahib G. C. Bagchi.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Distribution of quinine in Schools and Pathsalas.

110. In view of the satisfactory results produced among the school children at Dinajpur by the systematic administration of quinine, it was suggested that the services of school masters and inspecting officers of the Education Department should be enlisted for the purpose of popularising quinine among school children throughout the Province. It was, however, decided in the first instance to introduce the scheme tentatively in the district of Hooghly. The Director of Public Instruction was accordingly instructed to take steps for the distribution of quinine to all schools in that district in consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner who was requested to report on the success of the scheme.

Use of quinine in Municipal and District Board Dispensaries for the treatment of malarial fever.

111. The Malaria Committee having reported that patients suffering from malaria received totally inadequate doses of quinine at District Board dispensaries, the attention of District Boards was drawn to the fact and they were urged to utilize a portion of their increased income from the Public Works Cess in supplying their dispensaries with a sufficient stock of quinine. Municipalities were also requested to supply their dispensaries with an adequate amount of quinine, and a few of the poorer municipalities received special grants to enable them to do so.

EMIGRATION.

Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1915 (No. VIII of 1915).

112. This measure introduces important amendments in the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901). Of the changes effected by it the most important is the creation of a Central Bureau, designated the Assam Labour Board, to supervise recruitment. The Board will not itself conduct any recruiting operations, but will advise on applications for Local Agents' licenses and exercise a general supervision over recruitment. It will consist of 16 members, including one Government servant, nominated by the Government of India, who shall be *ex-officio* Chairman, the remaining members being elected by the Indian Tea Association (Calcutta and London) and the Assam and Surma Valley Branches of that Association. The routine work of the Board will be conducted by an Executive Committee consisting of five members. Power is given to the Board to levy for its support a cess on labourers recruited and sardars sent to the recruiting districts. The Board is competent to endorse Local Agents' licenses in cases of misconduct, and to appoint inspecting officers, designated supervisors who shall be considered public servants.

The following is a summary of the other changes introduced :—

(1) The definition of the word "emigrate" in section 2 (1) has been so amended as to bring within the scope of the Act all persons recruited in Native States who pass through British territory to proceed to the labour districts of Assam for employment as labourers.

(2) By the repeal of Chapter III recruitment by contractors is abolished.

(3) The amendment of section 64 permits recognised associations and firms to apply on behalf of employers for Local Agents' licenses.

(4) The amendment of section 67 enables a District Magistrate to cancel a Local Agent's license on general grounds.

(5) By the repeal of section 90 recruitment by garden sardars holding special permits from employers has been prohibited.

Recruitment of Gurkhas in Nepal and Darjeeling; and abolition of the thana parade of Nepalese military recruits.

113. In 1912 the Nepalese Government in order to control the recruitment of Gurkhas of the fighting classes, prohibited all recruitment in Nepal, except for military purposes. They took no steps at that time to prohibit recruitment on the borders of Nepal of Gurkhas who did not belong to the fighting classes. Recently being impressed with the danger of the fighting classes being recruited for civil employment outside Nepal, they solicited the co-operation of the British Government in discouraging the employment of the fighting classes in non-military pursuits in British territory, and in order to remove the temptation which might be thrown in the way of the military classes by the recruitment of non-military castes on the borders of Nepal, they issued more stringent regulations prohibiting all attempts, direct or indirect, to recruit Gurkhas of any class inside Nepal for other than military purposes. These measures in no way interfere with the recruitment of Gurkhas of the non-fighting class provided that they are recruited in British territory and are not induced to leave Nepal, directly or indirectly, by recruiting agents. It is therefore open to the tea industry in Darjeeling and other employers of Gurkha labour to continue the local recruitment of Nepalese of non-military castes.

For many years it has been the custom to parade military recruits for two consecutive Saturdays at the Darjeeling sadar thana with the object of enabling Managers of tea gardens to claim runaway coolies. This practice has, however, been found very inconvenient to the military authorities. Moreover, for ten years there has been no instance of a recruit being claimed at the thana parades. Government have therefore directed the suspension of the thana parades as an experiment for one year.

SANITATION.

Training of Health Officers.

114. A six months' course of lectures, demonstrations and practical work with a Municipal Health Officer was prescribed for candidates for posts of Health Officers of the 2nd class who do not possess a diploma in public health.

Pasteur Institute.

115. The concession was granted to Government servants whose pay does not exceed Rs. 100 a month of an advance of travelling expenses for an attendant, if necessary, to accompany a member of his family to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli.

Extension of the Vaccination Act.

116. The Bengal Vaccination Act V of 1880 was extended to 33 Revenue Mauzas adjoining the Railway Settlement at Kharagpur, in the district of Midnapore, with the exception of the area included within the limits of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

The Dacca University,

117. The scheme for the establishment of a teaching and residential University at Dacca received the general approval of the Secretary of State in 1913. It was originally intended that the University should comprise, among other institutions, the Dacca College, a new Government College, the Jagannath College, a Muhammadan College, a College for Women, an Engineering College, a Training College and the Departments of Islamic and Sanskrit studies and of law and medicine. There is also a proposal pending for the establishment of Colleges, one for Christian men and another for Christian women, by the Oxford Mission in connection with the University. As the financial position rendered it impossible to carry out at once the full scheme, the Government of Bengal decided in communication with the Government of India that a beginning should be made with the more essential portions of the scheme, on a scale commensurate with the funds available. With this object in view it was decided to postpone proceeding with the following items :—

The new College, the Engineering College and some of the Laboratories, the Natural History Museum, the Observatory, the Department of Sanskrit studies and the hostel with high fees.

These institutions will be established in course of time, and in the meantime arrangements are being made to provide for the present accommodation of the nucleus of the University until funds become available for the erection of all the new buildings comtemplated. The total capital expenditure necessary for the inauguration of the University on the reduced scale has been estimated at Rs. 38,40,000, and some of the buildings were started during the year under report. The expenditure will be met out of the accumulated grants made by the Government of India which now amounts to Rs. 39,45,000. The recurring expenditure immediately involved amounts to Rs. 10,03,404. The total income available to meet recurring charges has been estimated at Rs. 10,05,658, which is made up of (1) the annual recurring grant of Rs. 5,45,000, sanctioned by the Government of India, (2) the receipts from fees and other sources, and (3) the contribution made by the Government of Bengal, calculated on the cost now incurred on the existing colleges at Dacca.

Residential school for Indian boys.

118. Government have had for some time under consideration a scheme for the establishment of a residential school in Bengal for the sons of Indian gentlemen of position, as the education given in High English schools is not in all ways suited to the requirements of this section of the community, especially in the case of boys who are intended to complete their education at an English University. The scheme which was eventually framed received the sanction of the Secretary of State during the year under review. It has been sanctioned as an

experimental measure for five years. The institution was inaugurated on a small scale at the close of the year and is located for the present at Hastings House, Calcutta. Mr. Papworth, from Bishop Cotton's School at Simla, has been appointed resident Assistant Master in charge of the school, with some non-resident Indian assistants, pending the selection and appointment of a Head Master in England.

Educational Survey of the City of Calcutta.

119. At a meeting of the Calcutta Social Study Society the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, read a paper on "Educational Organization as a civic problem" in which he dealt particularly with the system of education prevailing in the City of Calcutta and with the responsibilities of the Corporation in the matter. The Corporation took up the matter and appointed a special Committee to examine the general question of education in the City, and Government at the same time deputed an officer to make an educational survey of Calcutta, as regards the population to be educated, its numbers and distribution according to sex, class of life and language, and the institutions available for its education.

The report of the special officer has not as yet been submitted, and the work of the Committee appointed by the Corporation has been suspended pending the completion of that report.

Institution of Scholarships for the Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

120. Four scholarships of the value of Rs. 16, 12, 8 and 8 respectively *per mensem* and tenable for two years in the day classes of the Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, were formerly awarded on the results of the C or Commercial class examinations which were open to students attending the C Classes which had been opened in connection with selected high schools. On the abolition of the C Class examinations the Commercial Institute was placed at a disadvantage in the matter of scholarships as compared with other Government institutions. Sanction was accordingly given to the institution of six scholarships for the Commercial Institute with effect from the beginning of the session 1914-15. Three of these are of the value of Rs. 12 each *per mensem* and are tenable for one year by first-year students, while the other three scholarships are of the value of Rs. 20 each *per mensem* and are tenable for one year by second-year students.

Education of Hindu girls.

121. A Committee was appointed by Government to consider the question of the education of Hindu girls, in connection with a suggestion that there is scope for the establishment in Calcutta of a school for the Hindu girls of the Presidency to be conducted on *parda* lines. The Committee has been asked to consider, among other subjects, whether the provision of such additional educational facilities as it may decide to recommend should be made through the agency of schools under the direct management of Government or of privately-managed schools in receipt, if necessary, of grants-in-aid.

Sanskrit Examination Board.

122. At the instance of the Sanskrit Examination Board Government have sanctioned the proposal for the inclusion of Pali and Prakrit among the subjects of study under the control of the Sanskrit Examination Board.

Guru-training Schools in Eastern Bengal.

123. The Government of India have sanctioned the proposal of the Local Government that the services of Head Pandits and Pandits in Guru-training Schools in Eastern Bengal should qualify for pension.

Technological Chemistry Classes.

124. The scheme for the opening of classes in technological chemistry and in dyeing and the chemistry of dyeing at the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, received the sanction of the Secretary of State during 1908 as an experimental measure for three years. On the expiration of this period the continuance of the classes was sanctioned as a temporary measure, pending the establishment of corresponding classes at the proposed Technological Institute in Calcutta. A large sum of money was spent in furnishing an experimental dye house fitted with modern machinery and apparatus for the demonstration of practical methods of commercial dyeing. The classes have as yet attracted but few students, but they are now capable of meeting the present needs not only of this Province but probably of the whole of India in the matter of specialised scientific training in the principles and practice of dyeing, and they are being advertised in other provinces in the hope that additional students may be secured for them.

Muhammadan education.

125. Education in Madrassas in this Presidency having been found to be ill suited for the requirements of the present day, Government have after mature deliberation decided to introduce a revised curriculum of studies in these institutions with a view to impart such an education to the Muhammadans as would enable them to play their part in the various activities of public life. The revised curriculum is the result of the deliberations of a Committee of experts appointed to consider the matter in connection with the proposal for the establishment of a faculty of Islamic studies in the Dacca University. Its object is to modernize the courses and combine with instruction in Islamic studies a thorough grounding in the English language. The reformed course has been brought into operation in all Government and aided Madrassas since the close of the year.

As there is also a demand for scholars of the old type versed in the ancient lore of Islam who would minister to the religious and social requirements of the Muhammadan community and uphold their ancient traditions, Government have decided that the Calcutta Madrassa should be reserved for studies on old orthodox lines and should provide the kind of teaching which has made the Madrassas in Upper India the centre of Islamic learning.

Scholars from Bengal Madrassas have not made any substantial contribution to the learning and literature of Islam and a large number of students from Bengal, after passing the highest examination of the Bengal Madrassas, proceed to Deoband and other reputed seats of Islamic learning in Upper India for the completion of their studies. Government have therefore appointed a Committee to revise the present curriculum of this institution with a view to make it as efficient in every way as any other Madrassa in India. The report of this Committee is being awaited by Government.

A scheme was sanctioned for the appointment of Special Inspecting Officers for Muhammadan Education, and five posts in the Provincial Educational Service have accordingly been created to provide for the appointment of these officers—one for each Division in the Presidency.

126. The Principal of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, was empowered to admit a limited number of artisan students of the Weaving Institute, Serampore, to the Dyeing Department of the College for a simple practical course of instruction in dyeing, and Government have sanctioned the award to those students of a number of the existing scholarships attached to the classes in dyeing and the chemistry of dyeing. **Admission of artisan students of the Weaving Institute, Serampore, to the Dyeing Department of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.**

DACCA MUSEUM.

127. It was decided that the newly opened Museum at Dacca should be established as a public Museum devoted to the Archæological and Natural History of Bengal in general and of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions in particular and action was taken to carry out this decision. **Dacca Museum.**

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

128. The year was exceptionally fruitful in fiction and poetry, but there was only one regular biography. The publications on art, though poor, gave indications of a growing interest in Indian art. Most of the historical works consisted of text-books for schools and colleges. The output of religious literature was much more plentiful than formerly and the year was rich in mythological dramas. The award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore aroused great enthusiasm. **Bengal Library.**

129. There was an improvement in the general tone of the press. The outbreak of the war evoked an outburst of loyalty, but after Turkey became involved in hostilities some difference of opinion manifested itself among Muhammadan papers. The more moderate section of the Muhammadan press took the view that Turkey's action had been ill-advised; but other papers, in their sympathy for Turkey, manifested an anti-British tone, which in two cases necessitated action under the Indian Press Act. In no case was it necessary to exercise the powers under the Indian Naval and Military News (Emergency) Ordinance of 1914. **Press.**

CHPATER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

130. The question of co-ordinating the different rates of pay and allowances of Veterinary Assistants and Veterinary Inspectors, obtaining in the two parts of the Presidency, has been engaging the attention of Government for some time. Orders have been passed since the close of the year, sanctioning uniform scales of pay for all Veterinary Assistants employed in the Presidency. The pay of Veterinary Assistants in **Reorganization of the Civil Veterinary Department in Bengal.**

the two Western Bengal Divisions was Rs. 30—$\frac{5}{5}$—50 and in the three Eastern Bengal Divisions, Rs 30—$\frac{10}{5}$—70. The more liberal rates of pay prevailing in the Eastern Bengal Divisions have been adopted for the whole Presidency. As regards local and travelling allowances the rates already in force in the two parts of the Presidency will continue except that in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Khulna and Jessore, where travelling and living are expensive, the Eastern Bengal rates will apply. The Inspectors in Western Bengal were arranged in seven grades ranging from Rs. 70 to Rs. 150, while in Eastern Bengal their pay was Rs. 100—5—175. As the service is small, the time-scale pay of Rs. 100—5—175 obtaining in the Eastern Bengal districts has been introduced throughout the Presidency as being more suitable than a graded system of promotion. The orders took effect from 1st March 1915.

Appointment of a second European Officer for the Bengal Veterinary College.

131. In order to raise the standard of instruction in the Bengal Veterinary College to the level of other similar institutions in India, the sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India was obtained during the year to the appointment of a second European officer for the College. It is not, however, proposed to fill the appointment until budget provision can be made for it.

Deputation of Veterinary Officers to Bombay and the Punjab to enlarge their knowledge in veterinary matters.

132. The deputation of a Deputy Superintendent and an Inspector from the Bengal Veterinary College and of an Inspector from the Civil Veterinary Department to Bombay and the Punjab to enlarge their knowledge in veterinary matters was sanctioned by Government, as an experimental measure, in the latter part of the year 1913-14. The officers deputed were instructed to pay special attention to work on *bovines* and not to spend their time in taking up questions which would be of little or no use to them in this Presidency. They were further required to submit full diaries and reports regarding their tours, showing what they had done and how far their experience had been enlarged or their knowledge improved. The reports which these officers have submitted after the close of the year show that their tours have been very useful.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Proposed investigation of the Himalayan snowfall.

133. At the instance of the Surveyor-General of India the question of the advance and retreat of Himalayan glaciers was considered during the year by the Board of Scientific Advice and was referred to Sub-Committee A of that body for report. In forwarding a copy of the Sub-Committee's report the Government of India enquired whether the Government of Bengal would be prepared to render assistance, as suggested by the Surveyor-General, in determining the height of the line of perpetual snow in the Sikkim-Himalaya, and also the date when the snow-line is highest. The Government of Bengal agreed to give any assistance in their power in carrying out the proposed investigation, and decided to entrust the work to Major Hirst, Director of Surveys, who would be in direct correspondence with the Surveyor-General regarding the arrangements to be made for the purpose and would from time to time submit the results of his enquiries to that officer. Operations will be started during the cold weather of 1915-16.

Change of time in Government offices in Eastern Bengal Districts.

134. In order to secure uniformity throughout the Province, the orders of the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam prescribing the adoption of standard time in all Government offices were revoked and local time was readopted in the eastern districts.

The War.

135. War broke out with Germany, Austria and Turkey on the 4th and 12th August, and 1st November, 1914, respectively. All Germans and Austrians were registered and placed under police surveillance and disarmed. Asiatic Turks were allowed to remain at liberty subject to certain restrictions, and efforts were made to remove any misapprehension among Muhammadans on the character of the war with Turkey.

Germans and Austrians of military age were removed to the Prisoners of War Camp at Ahmednagar; while others were either allowed to remain on parole at their places of residence or interned at the Civil Detention Camp at Katapahar in the Darjeeling district.

The Chiefs of Cooch Behar and Hill Tippera and many persons and Associations offered help, monetary or otherwise, in connection with the war and for the comfort of the wounded.

In order that correct information regarding the war might be made known throughout the Presidency, the Government of Bengal published every week, under the name of "Saptahik Judhabarta" (weekly war news), a Bengali translation of the telegrams on the subject received by His Excellency the Viceroy from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and distributed copies widely throughout the Presidency.

His Excellency the Viceroy's visit to Calcutta.

136. His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, visited Calcutta early in March 1915, and during his stay there, unveiled the statues of the late Marquess of Ripon and the late Earl of Minto in the presence of a representative gathering of Europeans and Indians.

Death of Nawab Bahadur Sir K. Salimullah, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., of Dacca.

137. During the year under review the Province sustained a great loss by the death of the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Sir Khwaja Salimullah, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., of Dacca. He was succeeded by his son, Nawab Khwaja Habibulla.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1914-1915.

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Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1914-15.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY.
FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.
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See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 1—134.

Changes in the Administration.

Executive Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. D. Beatson-Bell, C.S.I., C.I.E., acted as a Temporary Member of the Bengal Executive Council, during the absence, on leave, of the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Lyon, C.S.I., from the 14th April to the 13th September 1914. The Hon'ble Mr. Beatson-Bell succeeded to the permanent vacancy in the Council caused by the resignation of Sir Frederick William Duke, K.C.S.I. K.C.I.E., on the 1st November 1914.

Bengal Secretariat.

2. The pay of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal was raised to Rs. 3,750 a month, the rate sanctioned for the Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

In recognition of the growing importance of the Legislative Department of this Government, the status of the Officer-in-charge of that Department was raised from an "Assistant Secretary" to that of a "Secretary," and he is now designated "Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Legislative Department and Secretary to the Bengal Legislative Council."

Partition of the District of Midnapore.

3. Proposals for the partition of the district of Midnapore for the better administration of the district have long been under the consideration of Government. In 1913 a definite scheme of partition was drawn up and published for general information and criticism. After a careful consideration of the various suggestions put forward by representative bodies and private individuals interested in the matter, as well as of the recommendations of the Bengal District Administration Committee on the subject, a revised scheme has been prepared for dividing the existing district into two, as indicated below :—

(1) The district of Midnapore, with its headquarters at Midnapore and outlying subdivisions at Ghatal and Jhargram, comprising a total area of 2,688 square miles, with a population of 1,088, 447 ; and

(2) The district of Hijli, with its headquarters at Kharagpur and outlying subdivisions at Contai and Tamluk, comprising a total area of 2,457 square miles, with a population of 1,732,754. No change, however, is at present contemplated with regard to the jurisdiction of the District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore, who will continue to deal with cases from both districts. The final scheme was published for general information in January 1915, and a complete estimate of its cost is under preparation.

Partition of Mymensingh.

4. The question of the partition of the unwieldy district of Mymensingh has been before Government since the year 1876, and the late Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was in favour of the constitution of three districts out of the present district. The whole question was carefully re-examined by the Government of Bengal after the reconstitution of the Provinces, and in July 1912 a resolution was published in which it was proposed to create a new district consisting of the subdivisions of Jamalpur and Tangail, and to leave the remainder as the Mymensingh district, leaving the question of a still further division to future decision. The matter was further considered by the Bengal District Administration Committee, who recommended the formation of the following three districts :—

(1) A south-eastern, or Kishorganj district, with headquarters at Kishorganj, comprising an area of 1,630 square miles and a population of 1,366,407.

(2) A western, or Gopalpur district, with an area of 2,009 square miles and a population of 1,738,525.

(3) A central and north-eastern district with headquarters at Mymensingh, comprising an area of 2,610 square miles and a population of 1,421,490.

These proposals commended themselves generally to the Government of Bengal, and a resolution inviting public criticisms thereon was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd June 1915. The matter is still under consideration.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for the year 1914-15.]

(Area, 1,307 square miles; chief produce—rice, jute and tobacco; population, 5,92,952; military force, 173 men and 4 guns; annual revenue, Rs 23,26,944; Ruling Chief—Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur; family: Tibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar.)

War.

5. On the outbreak of the war, His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar placed his personal services as well as those of his two brothers and the resources of the State at the disposal of Government. The services of Maharaj Kumar Hitendra Narayan were accepted by the Government of India and he left for the front in October 1914. He was employed as Staff Officer in France, and was mentioned in despatches for good service in connection with the attack on Neuve Chapelle in March 1915.

The Council.

6. On the death of Babu Priya Nath Ghosh, Dewan of the State, Mr. Narendra Nath Sen, Barrister-at-Law, Civil and Sessions Judge, Cooch Behar, was appointed to the post. On the Executive side 20 meetings were held against 24 of the previous year; at 16 of these His Highness the Maharaja presided. On the Judicial side 19 meetings were held against 20 of the previous year. No meeting of the Legislative Council was held during the year.

State Railways.

7. The gross earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railways amounted Rs. 2,69,264, while the working expenses were Rs. 1,27,515. The net earnings were 6·28 on the capital outlay against 8·10 of the previous year.

Finance.

8. The finances of the State suffered partly from bad harvests due to deficient rainfall but chiefly from the dislocation of trade owing to the European war. The total revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 26,29,182, against Rs. 28,26,944 of the previous year, while the the total expenditure fell from Rs. 29,31,408 of the previous year to Rs. 27,16,929. The closing balance, inclusive of Government money and deposits, was Rs. 14,29,407.

Crops and conditions of the people.

9. The rainfall was not evenly distributed, and this affected the crops throughout the year. The yield of winter rice was less than 8 annas, while that of Bitri was only 9 annas. The price of rice went up in consequence. Unseasonable rain also affected the cultivation of jute, and the European war seriously affected its value. Though no real distress was reported, the condition of the people was far from satisfactory.

Criminal Justice.

10. The total number of cases reported during the year was 2,883, against 3,093 of the preceding year, showing a decrease of 210 cases. The percentage of conviction to total number of persons tried was 68·3, against 67·74 of the previous year. The number of prisoners admitted into the jail during the year was 268 as compared with 238 in the previous year.

Education.

11. The Subdivisional High English Schools continued to make satisfactory progress. The total number of pupils attending such schools rose from 745 to 819, and the average daily attendance from 553 to 583. The number of Primary Schools increased from 322 to 330. The number of Muhammadan boys attending various schools was 4,324 and their success in the various examinations is encouraging. The Victoria College continued to make steady progress, and the results of the various University examinations were satisfactory.

Public health.

12. The general health of the State suffered owing to the unusual prevalence of malaria, and there was considerable increase in the number of reported cases of cholera and small-pox.

HILL TIPPERA.

[Administration Report of the Hill Tippera State for the year 1914-15.]

(Area 4,086 square miles; population (1911) 2,29,613; revenue from the State, Rs. 10,52,873; revenue from zamindari in British territory, Rs. 9,53,884; military force, 227 men; chief products, rice and cotton. Present Raja—Birendra Kishore Deb Barman Manikya, aged 32 years; family: Indo-Chinese; caste, Kshatriya; has male heir; residence, Agartala.)

War.

13. On the outbreak of the war, His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera placed his personal services and the resources of his state at the disposal of the Imperial Government. His Highness also gave a suitable donation to the Provincial War Relief Fund, a branch of which was successfully started in the State.

Political Agent.

14. Captain R. C. B. Williams was Political Agent till the 18th June 1914, when he reverted to military duty. Mr. T. Emerson, Collector of Tippera, held charge of the agency, in addition to his own duties, till the 25th July 1914, when Captain O. C. Pulley, the permanent Political Agent, joined. On the outbreak of the European war, Captain Pulley left the State to join his regiment, and the Collector of Tippera was again appointed *ex-officio* Political Agent in the State.

Revenue and Finance.

15. The revenue of the State amounted to Rs. 10,35,456 against Rs. 10,36,123 of the previous year and Rs. 10,52,873 the average of the preceding five years. The gross receipts of the State and the attached zamindaris amounted to Rs. 19,07,021 and with refunds and deposits, the total amount was Rs. 25,95,934. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 20,76,459. As regards outstanding liabilities, Rs. 2,50,000 were due at the close of the year to the Bank of Bengal.

Protection.

16. The total number of offences reported to the Police was 906 against 725 of the previous year. The number of persons arrested was 428, of whom 411 were sent up for trial; of this 219 were convicted and 102 persons were awaiting trial at the close of the year. The percentage of stolen property recovered was greater, and the number of original criminal cases instituted was less, than in the preceding year.

Weather and crops.

17. The average rainfall of the year was 90·58 inches against 117·1 of the previous year. The weather was unseasonable throughout and agricultural conditions unfavourable ; *aus* paddy suffered in almost all the divisions owing to heavy rainfall, while *aman* crops were damaged for want of seasonable rain. *Jhums* for the most part yielded poor harvests owing to the same cause. The outturn of *rabi* crops was, however, satisfactory. Public health on the whole was good during the year.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

The agricultural classes.

18. The condition of the cultivating classes was materially affected by the sudden outbreak of war in Europe, which caused an immediate fall in the price of jute at a time when a record crop was being harvested, making it difficult for those whose jute was of inferior quality to dispose of it except at nominal prices.

Insufficient rainfall in September and October adversely affected the outturn of winter rice in parts of Eastern Bengal and particularly in Bakarganj, where this crop is of great importance. To meet the situation due to these causes advances were made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, amounting to Rs. 1,64,385.

Wages and salaries.

19. The fall in the price of jute had the effect of reducing largely the rates for agricultural labour which had risen abnormally in the previous year, and owing to the general shortness of money the professional classes, traders and artisans, found less demand for their services and consequently less remuneration.

CHAPTER II—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Total collections.

20. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 97,011 as against 96,837 in the previous year. Of these 91,659 were permanently-settled estates, 3,179 temporarily-settled estates and 2,173 estates held direct by Government. The total current demand of the year under report amounted to Rs. 2,73,67,531, showing an increase of Rs. 1,90,604 as compared with the demand of the previous financial year. The increase was due to new settlements, resettlements and progressive increase of demands in temporarily-settled and Government estates. The current demand, together with the arrear of Rs. 13,85,134, brought the total realizable demand of the year to Rs. 2,87,52,665, out of which the collections amounted to Rs. 2,67,52,727, or 93·04 per cent. of the total, and 97·75 per cent. of the current demand, as against 94·87 and 98·52 per cent., respectively, in the preceding revenue year. During the year under report the collections suffered considerably owing to the depression in the jute trade following on the outbreak of the European War. The total remissions decreased from Rs. 54,510 in 1913-14 to Rs. 34,702 in the year under report. The bulk of the remissions was allowed, as usual, in estates held direct by Government.

Collections in (a) Permanently-settled estates.

21. The total demand of the permanently-settled estates amounted to Rs. 2,17,93,297 (Rs. 2,15,88,771 current and Rs. 2,09,526 arrear), of which Rs. 2,15,92,348 or 99·05 per cent. was collected. The percentage of current collections on current demand attained 99 in all districts except Jessore (97·69), Midnapore (97·53) and Bakarganj (96·19). The deficiency in these three districts is attributed, as in previous years, to the short payments made by two estates under the management of the Court of Wards.

(b) Temporarily-settled estates.

22. Temporarily-settled estates comprise three sub-classes—(1) private estates settled with proprietors, (2) private estates leased to farmers, and (3) Government estates leased to farmers. The total collections from all these three classes of estates amounted to Rs. 15,42,054, representing 95·13 per cent. of the current demand, Rs. 16,20,988, against 96·85 per cent. of the previous year. A balance of Rs. 3.39,820 remained unrealized at the close of the year. The current collections fell short of the prescribed standards in eight districts. The balances were considerable in Midnapore and Bakarganj.

(c) Estates held direct by Government.

23. The estates held direct by Government comprise two sub-classes—(1) estates belonging to private proprietors but managed by Government, and (2) those owned by Government as proprietor. The current demand of these estates amounted to Rs. 41,57,772 and the total collections Rs. 36,18,325, represented 71·33 per cent. of the total and 87·02 per cent. of the current demand, against 77·40 and 91·52 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The marked falling off in collections resulted from the loss suffered by the tenants owing to the partial failure of the winter crops and the fall in the price of jute due to the outbreak of war. In Bakarganj a sum of Rs. 96,642 had to be suspended. In Midnapore the outstanding balances amounted to Rs. 5,58,296, and the short collection was due to the fact that the khas mahal tenants of Contai, who suffered from the Damodar floods of 1913, could not pay up the whole of the current and arrear demands of the year, including the suspended demand of the preceding year.

Miscellaneous land revenue.

24. The total collection amounted to Rs. 15,24.187, against Rs. 11,43,261 in the previous revenue year. The heavy recoveries (Rs. 5,12,755) of survey and settlement charges in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh account for most of the increase. The collections under the head "Other receipts"

amounted to Rs. 2,10,402, which included Rs. 57,325 on account of *pulbandi* contribution realized from the Burdwan Estate.

Changes in land revenue demand of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management.

25. There was a net increase of 20,599·32 acres in the area of land settled and of Rs. 1,80,694 in revenue.

Redemption of land revenue.

26. The total number of petty estates and holdings, the land revenue of which was redeemed during the year, was 325. There were mostly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and its suburbs. The land revenue redeemed amounted to Rs. 666 and the total price obtained was Rs. 18,571. There was no redemption under section 11 of the old Partition Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1876.

Remittance of land revenue and rent by money-orders.

27. The total number of special money-orders issued during the year and the amount of land revenue and cesses remitted by them were 297,491 and Rs. 18,04,024, respectively, showing a decrease of 15,044, and Rs. 5,67,353, as compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year. The fall in the number of orders was shared by the majority of the districts, but Chittagong was responsible for most of the decrease in the amount remitted. The average value of an order decreased from Rs. 7·5 in 1913-14 to Rs. 6·06 in the year under report. A combined form of money-order for the remittance of both land revenue and cess in Bengal was introduced towards the close of the year under report. The system of payment of rent by money-order continued in force throughout the Presidency, except in the district of Dárjeeling and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The total number of money-orders issued during the year fell from 63,044 to 61,081 and the amount covered by them from Rs. 10,14,139 to Rs. 10,08,175. The percentage of money-orders refused to money-orders issued decreased from 20·3 in the previous year to 18·5. This decrease is common to all the Divisions, while the decline in the number of money-orders issued is shared by the Burdwan, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions.

Coercive measure. (a) Sale Laws.

28. There were 13,713 defaults and 861 sales during the year under report, as compared with 12,467 defaults and 811 sales in the preceding year. The price realized by sale was 5·7 times the Government revenue against 6·4 times in 1913-14. Forty-eight tenures and holdings under the direct management of Government were sold under the provisions of Act XI of 1859. Of these, one was purchased on behalf of Government for Rs. 3 and nine for Re. 1 each. One hundred and twenty-six appeals were filed before the Commissioners against sales. In twelve cases sales were annulled under section 2 of Bengal Act VII of 1868 and in 11 cases by the Board under section 26 of Act XI of 1859, as amended by the Decentralization Act, 1914.

(b) Certificate procedure.

29. The total number of certificates (exclusive of those for cesses which have been dealt with in section V) filed during the year was 59,560, as against 53,808 of the previous year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of to the total number for disposal rose from 65·1 to 68·6. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 27,144, of which 11,915 were pending for more than six months. In the great majority of cases payments were made on the mere issue of notices or on attachment of property, and recourse to actual sale was necessary in only 2,082 cases out of 59,484 cases disposed of during the year.

Realization of Government and other demands by imprisonment.

30. During the year under report 33 persons were confined in civil jails, of whom 10 were imprisoned for the non-payment of Government dues and the others for the withholding of sums due to District Boards and Court of Wards, etc.

Processes.

31. The total number of processes served fell to 895,993 from 910,980 in the preceding year. The process-fees realized amounted to Rs. 3,55,320 against Rs. 3,59,585 in the preceding year and the total cost of service, including the pay of the supervising establishment debitable to Land Revenue, was Rs. 2,29,756 against Rs, 2,25,659 in the previous year. In only two districts, Khulna and Pabna, did the cost of the process-serving establishment exceed the receipts from fees. The system of fines and rewards for bad and good work is reported to have worked well. The system of serving processes by dafadars through President Panchayats was in force in

the districts of Hooghly, Dacca and Tippera, in the Sadar and Kalna Subdivisions of the district of Burdwan, in the Sadar Subdivision of the district of Birbhum, in the Ranaghat, Chuadanga and Meherpur Subdivisions of the district of Nadia and in the Magura Subdivision of the district of Jessore throughout the year, and was introduced during the year in some thanas of the Sadar Subdivision and in the Barasat and Barrackpore Subdivisions of the district of the 24-Parganas, in the Lalbagh Subdivision of the district of Murshidabad and in the Sadar and Satkhira Subdivisions of the district of Khulna. The result of the experiment is reported to be generally satisfactory.

OTHER REVENUE WORK.

Land Registration.

32. The applications made during the year under the Bengal Land Registration Act, VII of 1876, for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise numbered 34,961, of which 32,611 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 38,971 and 45,765, respectively. At the close of the year the total number of recorded interests in the Presidency was 944,207, as against 937,413 at the beginning. The number of cases undisposed of at the end of the year was 11,071, of which 246 were pending for more than six months. The largest number of long pending cases is in Chittagong, 199. Of these, 182 cases have, however, been disposed of since the close of the year.

Partition.

33. Fifty-three cases were instituted during the year for partition of estates under the Bengal Act V of 1897. These, together with 265 cases pending from the preceding year, made a total of 318 for disposal. Of these, 43 cases, including 16 cases struck off for various reasons, were disposed of during the year, against 33 in the previous year. At the close of the year there were 275 cases left undisposed of, 139 of which were pending for more than two years. During the year under report Special Officers were employed exclusively on partition work in the districts of Khulna, Rajshahi and Dinajpur. There are Estates Partition Funds in the districts of Jessore, Dacca and Mymensingh only. The incidence of cost per acre of area partitioned in the three abovementioned districts was 1 anna, 5 annas 9 pies and 6 annas 6 pies, respectively, as against 9 annas, 15 annas 7 pies and 10 annas 10 pies in the preceding year.

Land Acquisition.

34. Proceedings for the acquisition, on behalf of Government and local bodies and companies, of land covering an area of 5,386 acres were confirmed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 50,32,659 as compared with an area of 1,979 acres at a cost of Rs. 35,42,272 during the preceding year. Of the total expenditure incurred a sum of Rs. 19,83,655 was for acquisition of lands for Government, including State Railways and Companies' Railways, and Rs. 30,49,004 for all other purposes, viz., for District Boards, Municipalities and Railway and other companies. The average cost per acre of the lands for which acquisition proceedings were confirmed during the year was Rs. 934 against Rs. 1,790 in the preceding year. The decrease in the average cost is due mainly to the fact that the proceedings confirmed during the year were in respect of less costly projects in the town of Calcutta and the districts of Howrah, Midnapore and Chittagong.

Loans—(a) Land Improvement Loans Act.

35. The amount of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 1,56,425 and loans amounting to Rs. 9,864 were advanced during the year under report. Of the total outstanding principal, Rs. 1,66,289, Rs. 78,498 was repayable during the year. Out of this Rs. 63,671 was realized, including Rs. 520 collected in advance and excess, while Rs. 244 was remitted. The balance outstanding at the close of the year was Rs. 1,02,374 (including Rs. 50 under suspension), of which Rs. 15,053 was overdue. Of Rs. 11,704 due on account of interest, current and arrear, the collections during the year amounted to Rs. 9,885, of which Rs. 47 was paid in advance and excess, while Rs. 16 was remitted and a balance of Rs. 1,840 left unrealized at the close of the year.

(b) Agriculturists' Loans Act.

36. The amount advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act was Rs. 1,64,385. The outstanding balance of the previous year

was Rs. 4,64,658, making the aggregate amount outstanding Rs. 6,29,043, of which Rs. 2,41,997 was recoverable within the year. The total collections amounted to Rs. 1,07,013, including Rs. 872 paid in advance, and Rs. 220 was remitted. The balance recoverable in future years is Rs. 5,21,802 (including Rs. 50,331 under suspension), of which Rs. 85,297 was overdue at the end of the year. The amounts overdue in the districts of Nadia, Faridpur, Bakarganj and Tippera are heavy. Of Rs. 35,816 due on account of interest, current and arrear, Rs. 17,347 was collected (including Rs. 3 paid in excess), Rs. 64 was remitted and Rs. 9,261 suspended, leaving a balance of Rs. 9,147 overdue at the end of the year.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

Outturn of the year.

37. The Survey Department was employed during the year in connection with major operations under the Bengal Tenancy Act in the districts of Mymensingh, Midnapore, Rajshahi and Noakhali. The traverse survey of Mymensingh was completed, while in Midnapore an area of less than 400 square miles remains to be traversed. The total area surveyed during the year was 3,630 square miles as against 3,562 in the previous year. In addition to district surveys, the department had to deal with various miscellaneous items of work, the most important of which were the Howrah Town survey and the survey on behalf of the Calcutta Improvement Trust of the Calcutta added area and of the Maniktala, Tollygunge, South Suburban, and Cossipore-Chitpur Municipalities.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending the 30th September 1914.]

General.

38. Survey and settlement operations under the supervision of the Director of Land Records were in progress in 19 districts. The settled area of the Province in which the Bengal Tenancy Act is in force is 63,893 square miles. A record-of-rights prepared under Chapter X of that Act has been finally published in respect of 15,449 square miles.

Land Revenue Settlements.

39. Rent settlement in the Government estates in Jalpaiguri resulted in a net increase of revenue by 56 per cent. This work was also in progress in considerable areas in Dacca, Bakarganj, and Noakhali, showing so far, increases of 135, 33·76 and 208 per cent., respectively, mostly due to excess areas.

Other Settlements.

40. Imperial District operations on a large scale were in progress in Mymensingh, Dacca, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, and Midnapore, and in an area of 137 square miles in the Rampur Hât Subdivision of the Birbhum district. Progress in Mymensingh was very satisfactory: the outturn on the main branches of work, viz., field survey, attestation, printing of the record and recovery of costs amounting to 850, 800, 897 and 1,023 square miles, respectively. The collapse of the jute market interfered with recovery. Cadastral survey and *bujharat* (local explanation of record) were completed in Dacca and, except in printing and consequently in recovery of costs, the year's programme was exceeded. Except for the disposal of cases filed after final publication, the work of the Settlement Department in Faridpur was completed. The result of the year's case-work was favourable to the landlords on the whole, the average enhancement in the case of raiyats was 24 per cent. of the original rent. The entire programme in Rajshahi, consisting of 870 square miles of survey and preliminary record-writing, 974 square miles of local explanation of record, and 484 square miles of *janch* (office work and check) was carried through. *Ganja* grows in the Naogaon Subdivision, the area under cadastral survey, and special statistics of its cultivation village by village were supplied by the Settlement Department to the Excise Department. Widespread illegal enhancement of rent was the chief feature brought

out at attestation. The subservient condition of the tenants and the power of the landlords in the Natore and Naogaon Subdivisions have attracted attention. The settlement work of Jalpaiguri district was completed during the year except in respect of post-publication case-work. A small amount of costs remained to be recovered. In attestation and *janch* (office work and check) performance in Midnapore kept abreast of the programme of 1,065 square miles of each. Cadastral survey of only 854 square miles could be done, the balance of the programme of 1,087 square miles having been postponed chiefly on account of the serious floods of 1913. Revisional operations were undertaken in 47 square miles in Pargana Pataspur and found to be easy and cheap owing to the excellence of the previous survey. The conditions in Midnapore vary from those found to exist in the most jungly tracts of Chota Nagpur to those found in Eastern Bengal with its complex systems of co-parcenary and sub-infeudation. In the Sonthal area of Birbhum the proceedings for the settlement of fair rents under section 112 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were confirmed by the Governor-General in Council and the operations were concluded.

Minor Settlements.

41. Minor settlement operations in respect of scattered estates were in progress in 13 districts. The inspection of the Director of Land Records revealed various defects in some of the proceedings which had previously been outside his control, and steps are being taken to remedy them as far as possible. There were 21 zamindari estates with an area of 25 square miles to deal with in Burdwan, where large numbers of rent-free claims were found to prevail. In Bankura one small *patni* estate, of which some villages were missing, was under settlement. Five *chars* were also surveyed. The operations pending in Hooghly were completed and new work in six petty zamindari estates and three Government Estates together with the settlement of two Government *chars* under the Regulations was practically finished. In the 24-Parganas there was a small programme consisting of operations in different stages. The area under attestation consisted mainly of *bheris* or rearing tanks for fish—piscicultural rather than agricultural land.

The claims to raiyati status of non-cultivating tenants with numerous cultivators under them was a peculiarity of the petty settlements in Nadia. The programme was practically completed. Fourteen square miles of survey and 24 square miles of *khanapuri* (initial record-writing) were completed in Murshidabad, in respect of 11 resumed, 6 wards' and 3 zamindari estates. In Jessore the settlement of 4 zamindari estates was completed and the rent-roll of one temporarily-settled estate was finally framed. Under-raiyats are reported to be suspiciously few. The records of the Khulna portion of the Mokimpur Estate were finally published and case-work in the Jessore portion completed. The small programme in Khulna (excepting Mokimpur) was practically disposed of. In Bakarganj there were 62 Government estates or temporarily-settled estates with an area of 95 square miles under settlement of land revenue, the most important being Tushkhali, a Government estate. In respect of the smaller estates the District Settlement Survey was revised and brought up to date. Considerable changes were necessary in the Tushkhali villages, which were not dealt with in the District Settlement. So far rents and revenue have been increased by 15·39 and 33·76 per cent., respectively. The total *diara* area is 44 square miles and the proposed revenue Rs. 45,000. In Faridpur out of a total of nearly 18 square miles under settlement of land revenue the rent-roll for 16 square miles was published. A large increase of revenue is expected chiefly from accretions. The work in Noakhali embraced operations at different stages in 30 Government estates and temporarily-settled estates (118 square miles) and in two zamindari estates (38 square miles). The revision of land revenue in six estates resulted in an increase from Rs. 5,174 to Rs. 15,959 mostly due to excess area and rise in prices. Out of the small programme in Tippera district only the disposal of some case-work under section 105 remained unfinished. In Dinajpur the costs of the settlement of Jhargaon estate were collected and the operations closed.

Boundary marks.

42. Prompt measures were taken in most districts to restore missing pillars and to put in order those which were damaged.

Waste Lands.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Waste lands.

43. The rules for the grant of leases to large capitalists of waste lands in the 24-Parganas and Khulna portions of the Sundarbans are still under suspension. With a view to determine the best method of reclaiming the waste lands in these two districts, the Hon'ble Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore visited the Sundarbans and, after studying the methods adopted in the past in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans as compared with those which have been so successful in the Colonization area in the Bakarganj Sundarbans, he submitted a note on the development of the tract and proposed raiyatwari settlement in certain areas. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

The number of leases granted in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans under the large Capitalists' Rules of 1879 and under the rules of 1853 was the same as before, viz., 188 and 93, respectively, in the 24-Parganas and 22 and 38, respectively, in Khulna. The revenue payable in respect of them during the year was Rs. 73,001, Rs. 79,459, Rs. 9,816 and Rs. 54,076 which will rise eventually to Rs. 2,35,111, Rs. 80,053, Rs. 22,206 and Rs. 55,769, respectively. The number of leases granted in Saugor Island was 6 as in the previous year, the annual revenue payable being Rs. 956 rising eventually to Rs. 11,931. As before *parwanas* for possession were issued in Jalpaiguri in respect of 147 waste land *jotes* settled during the year. Leases under the Arable Waste Land Lease Rules will be issued in the course of the current settlement.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Number and management.

44. The total number of estates under direct management, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 2,173 with a current demand of Rs. 41,57,772. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 6·68. The year was not a favourable one for the tenants. There was an excellent jute crop, but the fall in prices and the stoppage of credit caused by the sudden outbreak of war affected the tenants in Government estates equally with those in private estates. This was followed by insufficient rain in September and October, resulting in a partial failure of the winter rice and *rabi* crops in some areas and poor crops in others. The failure of crops was most severe in the Government estates in the southern portion of the district of Bakarganj, where rice is the only crop grown. There was also an outbreak of rinderpest in that part of the district and a large number of cattle died. The tenants were helped with agricultural loans and suspension of rent was granted where necessary. In Darjeeling also the tenants were not so well off as in normal years. Cardamom and jute are the principal sources of income and the prices of both were low.

Grants for improvements.

45. The total expenditure of Rs. 1,57,256 under the heads Miscellaneous and Sanitary Improvements included Rs. 15,352 spent on tanks and wells, Rs. 73,658 on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 9,059 on roads and bridges, and Rs. 59,187 on miscellaneous objects, including tree-planting.

Colonization in the Bakarganj Sundarbans.

46. The year under report is the eighth year since the inception of the Colonization Scheme in the Bakarganj Sundarbans. There were 535 new colonists settled on 31,560 bighas of land, against 239 colonists on 12,340 bighas in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 7,000 was advanced to the colonists as loans and Rs. 3,153 was realized during the year. The progress of reclamation was satisfactory. It is expected that the major portion of the area settled will be reclaimed and brought under cultivation shortly. The starting of rural Co-operative Credit Societies in the Colonization area has proved a boon to the settlers. Seventeen Societies have been registered up to the close of the year under report.

47. The expenditure on roads and communications in Government estates amounted to Rs. 2,16,630, against the Government 1½ per cent. grant of Rs. 70,500 for this purpose. The excess expenditure was met from District Board and other local funds. **Roads.**

48. The total expenditure on education in Government estates during the year was Rs. 64,515 against a Government grant of Rs. 45,078. The excess expenditure was met from local grants. The total number of schools and pupils in Government estates was, respectively, 2,214 and 73,327 against 2,379 and 77,201 in the previous year. The decrease both in the number of schools and of pupils was marked in the Burdwan Division, where the number of schools fell from 1,008 to 843, and that of pupils from 28,382 to 24,049. The district of Midnapore is chiefly responsible for this result. **Education.**

49. Five estates, covering an area of 10 acres in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, were sold during the year for Rs. 118 subject to a total annual revenue of Rs. 33. **Sale of estates.**

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1914-15].

50. The total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 57. Four estates were released, leaving 53 estates under management at the close of the year. The total amount of revenue and cesses due to Government, including an arrear demand of Rs. 1,31,751, was Rs. 13,98,946, of which 88·0 per cent., was paid against 91·5 per cent. in the previous year. **Number of estates and payment of Government demands.**

51. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses due to superior landlords showed some improvement, being 78·3 per cent. of the amount due against 71·6 per cent. in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,23,199 out of a total demand of Rs. 5,96,470. The heaviest balances were due from the Bawali estate in the district of the 24-Parganas, the Bhawal estate in the district of Dacca, and the Karatiya estate in the district of Mymensingh. In the former two estates the balances are due mostly to superior landlords, against whom the estates have counter-claims, and they could not be paid as accounts were not adjusted. In the Karatiya estate the arrears accrued because the superior landlords refused to accept payment of the wards' share of the dues separately from that of the other shares jointly liable. **Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.**

52. The demand for rent and cesses due to the estates under management during the year was Rs. 94,19,517, including an arrear demand of Rs. 52,65,809. Out of this, Rs. 35,19,559 or 37·3 per cent. was collected against 44·1 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of collections on current demand was 84·7 against 99·9 in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent. collections on current demand was exceeded only in the Chittagong Division, where the percentage was 103·2. The lowest percentage, 69·4, was in the Rajshahi Division. The low percentage of collections is mainly due to the dislocation of the jute trade caused by the European war and to the damage to crops by insects and want of rain in certain areas. **Collection of rent and cesses.**

53. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates aggregated Rs. 56,34,972, representing 135·6 per cent. on the current demand and 59·8 per cent. on the total demand against 119·6 per cent. and 52·8 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. The balances exceeded the current demand in all the divisions, except the Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions. As regards the estates in which the balances exceeded 25 per cent. of the current demand, the percentage of total balance on the current demand was 111·9 in the Burdwan, 134·2 in the Presidency, 198·0 in the Dacca, 97·8 in the Chittagong and 91·7 in the Rajshahi Divisions. Owing to bad collections, for reasons already given, outstanding balances increased in almost all the estates. Considerable amounts of irrecoverable arrears were remitted in the Janbazar, Bhawal, Golakpur and Kazi estates. Although there is a large irrecoverable arrear balance in the Tagore estate, as the mortgagees of the estate have instituted a foreclosure suit, it was not thought proper to make **Balances of rent and cesses due to estates.**

any remission, especially as the mortgagees definitely objected to any remission of rent and cesses being granted in respect of the Midnapore property.

Debts of estates.

54. Most of the estates in the Burdwan, Presidency and Dacca Divisions are heavily encumbered. The total of the debts of all the estates in the Province stood at Rs. 89,42,183 after payments aggregating Rs. 3,25,481 during the year, the current rent and cess demand of the estates for the year being Rs. 41,53,708.

The debts of the Jhargram estate were reduced from Rs. 5,74,758 to Rs. 5,32,886, a sum of Rs. 72,170, including interest, which accrued during the year, having been paid. The balances of ascertained debts due from the Tagore estate rose from Rs. 18,63,593 to Rs. 19,24,878 mainly through accrual of interest. The foreclosure suit brought by the mortgagees of the estate is still pending. The debts due by the Mukharji estate were the same as at the close of the preceding year, viz., Rs. 1,17,000. As the income of the estate does not allow the payment of any part of the principal debt, it will probably be necessary to sell a part of the zamindari. Of the liabilities of the Bhawal estate, Rs. 56,718 were paid and Rs. 16,990 reduced by compromise, leaving an outstanding balance of Rs 24,50,803. Out of this balance the undisputed claims amount to Rs. 3,54,384 only. Of the liabilities of the estate of the late Nawab Sir K. Salimulla Bahadur of Dacca, all interest due for the year, together with a small amount, viz., Rs. 27,105 on capital account, was paid. The debts due by the estate of Khwaja Attikulla at the close of the year stood at Rs. 8,43,409 after payment of Rs. 60,707 and Rs. 21,153 towards the interest and the principal of the debts, respectively. Efforts to raise a loan at a lower rate of interest have not yet met with any success, and the outbreak of the war in Europe has added to the difficulty. The debts due by the Karatiya estate were reduced from Rs. 2,24,850 to Rs. 2,09,428, but the liabilities of the Golakpur and Sherpur estates increased from Rs. 6,33,566 and Rs. 1,08,084 to Rs. 6,67,200 and Rs. 1,13,218, respectively, by accrual of interest. No reduction could be made in the debts of Bhukailas estate No. I, which amounted to Rs. 2,45,000 at the close of the year. This was owing to bad collections in consequence of the fall in the price of jute. The debts of the Kazi estate were reduced to Rs. 72,041 after payment of a sum of Rs. 9,838, including interest.

Management charges.

55. The percentage of the cost of management on the current rent and cess demand of estates was for the whole Province 12·4 against 12·6 in the previous year. The standard of 10 per cent. was exceeded in all the divisions, though in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions the excess was slight, viz., 10·3. The percentage in the case of the Talipabad estate in the district of Dacca is very high (25·2). The Commissioner, however, reports that, as soon as the Settlement operations in progress in this and the Bhawal estates are over, steps will be taken to reduce the management charges. The management staff of the estates in Bakarganj has been revised with a view to reduce the cost in that district. The Board proposes to examine again the question of the cost of management in the Tippera portion of the Kasimbazar estate, which is shown as 16·5 per cent. In the Rangpur portion of the estate it has been reduced from 16·5 to 14·6 per cent.

Improvements.

56. The standards fixed for expenditure on schools and on agricultural and sanitary improvements are 9 and 3 per cent., respectively, of the current rent and cess demand of an estate. There is no standard fixed for expenditure on dispensaries or miscellaneous improvements. The total expenditure for the Province under all these heads during the year was Rs. 1,50,913. Schemes had been framed in 1913-14 by the Commissioner of the Presidency Division for carrying out some agricultural demonstrations in the Janbazar and Gobardanga estates, and by the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division in the Kasimbazar estate, but the schemes have not yet been carried out. Demonstrations on a small scale and experiments have, however, been made in several other estates, and a proposal to establish a demonstration farm in one estate is under consideration.

Lady Assistant.

57. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Lady Assistant to the Court of Wards, did much useful work in giving the ladies of the zenanas of Wards' estates the benefit of her advice in many different ways and in looking after the health, comfort and education of these ladies as well as of minor wards.

Education of the wards.

58. The education of the wards was generally attended with satisfactory results. In accordance with the scheme approved by Government in the previous year to give minors under the Court some training in Survey and Settlement work before the release of their estates, two wards attended the training camp during the field season of 1914-15.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

59. The main provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act are now becoming better known to both landlords and tenants, and the completion of survey and settlement operations in different districts has, no doubt, contributed to this result. The proposal for the amendment of the Law relating to the transferability of occupancy-holdings is still under consideration.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

60. The relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole satisfactory, although disagreements between them were noticed in certain places. The past year has been one of considerable strain owing to the economic effects of the war, but it is satisfactory to note that the zamindars on the whole have risen to the situation and dealt with their tenants in a conciliatory and sympathetic spirit. They have in many cases postponed the collection of rent and even granted loans to enable their tenants to tide over their difficulties. The Collector of Birbhum states that there is a tendency on the part of some landlords to use unscrupulous methods in dealing with Santal tenants. The Collector of Bankura brings to notice the fact that in the undeveloped parts of his district the aborigines and semi-aborigines are being gradually ousted by new-comers, and he thinks that a Record-of-Rights is urgently required there to protect the men who have opened up the country. The claims of the *Chakdars* and *Mandals* of Midnapore for the status of occupancy raiyats, which are pending in appeal in the Civil Courts, have not yet been finally disposed of. Strained relations between landlords and tenants are still far too common in many of the other districts in the Presidency.

Rent receipts.

61. The provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act as regards the issue of rent receipts are not properly observed by many landlords. Out of 38 cases of failure to grant proper receipts, 20 ended in conviction.

Illegal cesses.

62. As in the past the practice of levying *abwabs* or illegal cesses in some form or other over and above the stipulated rent is prevalent throughout the Presidency. No suit to resist these demands was brought, however, under section 75 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. In the Dacca Division the preparation of the Record-of-Rights is said to be having a good effect in restricting the levy of such demands, while in Bogra and Malda resistance is beginning to be offered by the raiyats.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1912-13, PART II, PAGES 13, 14.

Course of Legislation.

Acts passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1914-15.

63. The following seven Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during 1914-15 and became law during or shortly after the close of that year, namely :—

(*1*) *Bengal Act V of 1914* [The Chittagong Port Act, 1914].—This Act makes more suitable provisions for the management of the affairs of the Port of Chittagong in view of present-day requirements.

(*2*) *Bengal Act VI of 1914* [The Bengal Medical Act, 1914].—This Act provides for the registration of Medical Practitioners in Bengal, and is designed to protect the public and the medical profession from irregularly qualified practitioners. It is based on the Medical Acts in force in England (21 & 22 Vict., c. 90, and amending Acts), and on the Bombay Medical Act, 1912 (Bombay Act VI of 1912).

(*3*) *Bengal Act VII of 1914* [The Bengal Excise (Amendment) Act, 1914].—Owing to the territorial redistribution in April 1912, two different Excise Acts were in force in different parts of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal as constituted on the 1st April, 1912, namely, Bengal Act V of 1909 and Eastern Bengal and Assam Act I of 1910, and the main object of Bengal Act VII of 1914 was to make the excise law uniform throughout the whole of the present Presidency. With this end in view, Eastern Bengal and Assam Excise Act I of 1910 was repealed, and the Bengal Excise Act, 1909 (Bengal Act V of 1909), as amended by Bengal Act VII of 1914, was extended to " Eastern Bengal " as defined in section 2 of that Act.

The opportunity was also taken to clear up certain doubts which had arisen in the actual working of Bengal Act V of 1909, and also to exclude all references in it to the Board of Revenue, in consequence of the transfer of the administrative control of the Excise Department to the Local Government.

(*4*) *Bengal Act I of 1915* [The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1915].—The sole object of this Act was to amend the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 (Bengal Act III of 1890) with a view to empower the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta to recommend to Government the payment of a pension, gratuity or compassionate allowance to a retiring Vice-Chairman who, in their opinion, may be entitled to such consideration.

(*5*) *Bengal Act II of 1915* [The Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers (Amendment) Act, 1915].—The objects of this Act were as follows :—

(*1*) to provide for the exemption of certain boilers or prime-movers or classes of boilers or prime-movers from the operation of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879 (Bengal Act III of 1879) ; and

(*2*) to provide for the payment of a pension, gratuity or compassionate allowance to any Boiler Inspector injured, or to the relative of any Boiler Inspector killed, in the execution of his duty, or who might die in such exceptional circumstances as would, in the opinion of the Government of India, justify such payment, the provision being made retrospective so as to apply to cases of death occurring before the Act becomes law.

The Act is based on certain portions of the Burma Steam-boilers and Prime-movers' Act, 1910 (Burma Act II of 1910), and section 31 of the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 (Bengal Act III of 1890).

(6) *Bengal Act III of 1915* [The Calcutta Improvement (Amendment) Act, 1915].—The main object of this Act was to amend the provisions of section 63 of the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911 (Bengal Act V of 1911) in order to extend the power at present exercised by the Board of Trustees under that section in the neighbourhood of Calcutta to the area within the limits of the Calcutta Municipality, so as to prevent the erection or re-erection of, or addition to, any wall or building which falls within the street alignment or building line of a projected public street within those limits. It also provided that schemes of proposed public streets should receive the sanction of the Local Government.

(7) *Bengal Act IV of 1915* [The Bengal Embankment (Sundarbans) Act, 1915].—The object of this Act was to make provision for controlling the erection of private embankments in the Sundarbans so as to prevent deterioration in tidal channels and in the natural drainage of the country within that area. To secure this object the older and ineffective laws—Act XXXII of 1855 and Bengal Act VII of 1866—which were hitherto in force in the Sundarbans, were repealed, and the Bengal Embankment Act, 1882 (Bengal Act II of 1882) and the extant portions of the Bengal Embankment Act, 1873 (Bengal Act VI of 1873), were extended thereto.

64. There were no Bills pending before the Bengal Legislative Council at the close of the year 1914-15. **Bills pending during 1914-15.**

Police.

[The Report on the Police Administration in the Bengal Presidency for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

65. There was no change in the numerical strength of the superior police cadre. In the subordinate ranks an increase of 882 officers and men was sanctioned in connection with the reorganization of the subordinate police in Eastern Bengal, the revision of police-station areas in the Asansol subdivision of the district of Burdwan, and the strengthening of the armed branch of the force. The sanctioned strength of the force in Bengal provides 1 policeman for every 2,090 inhabitants, the United Provinces have 1 for 1,299, Madras 1 for 1,261, and Bombay 1 for 772. **Administration.**

The difficulties of the police force in Bengal were aggravated by the dearth of suitable local recruits, especially in the malarial districts, which necessitates the recruitment of men from Bihar, the United Provinces and the Punjab. The total number of men recruited during the year was 2,946 against 3,539 in the year 1913, while the number of vacancies at the close of the year was 1,400 as against 1,200 in the preceding year.

The number of resignations slightly decreased (668 against 684), but there were 317 desertions as compared with 153 in the previous year. It is hoped, however, that the improved rates of pay which were brought into force during the year will produce an improvement.

The minimum pay of constables has now been raised from Rs. 8 a month to Rs. 10 in the unarmed branch and to Rs. 11 in the armed branch. Proposals for granting special leave concessions to recruits from other provinces are under consideration. The necessity of strengthening the leave reserve, in order that a reasonable amount of leave may be granted, was again urged by the Inspector-General, and his detailed proposals on the subject are awaited.

The two regiments of the Indian army lent to this Government for police duties in the Eastern Bengal districts continued to be so employed throughout the year and rendered invaluable assistance to the administration.

66. The discipline of the police continued to improve. There was an appreciable increase in the number of officers and men rewarded, and the revised rules regarding the grant of rewards by police officers, which have now been finally passed, will obviate the delay which has hitherto occurred in **General condition of the police.**

the payment of rewards owing to accounts difficulties. There were 102 cases of judicial punishments as compared with 74 in the previous year, but there was a satisfactory decrease in departmental punishments and in complaints brought against the police by private persons. Another satisfactory feature is the steady improvement in the work of circle inspectors and the good influence exercised by them over the work of their subordinates. The detective ability of the investigating agency has not yet reached a high general level, but a scheme for special training in this matter has been drawn up by the Inspector-General and is under consideration. The excellent general training given in the college at Sarda and in the constables' training schools is already producing a good effect on the *morale* and intelligence of the force, and an increasing development of the utility and efficiency of these institutions is anticipated.

The expenditure in connection with the construction and repair of buildings during the year 1914 was nearly 18 lakhs as compared with Rs. 14½ lakhs during the previous year, but much remains to be done to make the police force in the mufassal reasonably comfortable and contented in this respect. The condition of many of the police buildings is deplorable, and heavy expenditure will be necessary before the force is properly housed. The Inspector-General submitted a comprehensive and carefully planned scheme, involving a total expenditure of nearly a crore and a half of rupees. In the existing financial stringency, it would be impossible for the Local Government or the Government of India to finance such a scheme, but Government fully realised the importance of the question and took steps to advance it as far as possible, so that substantial progress might be made directly financial conditions improved.

The discipline of the military police force was excellent. The battalion at Dacca took part with the regular troops on all combined field days, and was highly complimented by Major-General May, C.B., C.M.G., Commanding the Presidency Brigade, on its excellent conduct and on the keen and soldier-like manner in which it acquitted itself. In accordance with the scheme for the reorganization of the military police in Bengal which was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the old Bengal Military Police Company at Hooghly was to have been replaced by a detachment of the Dacca Military Police battalion, but for administrative reasons the change could not be carried out before the close of the year.

A satisfactory improvement in the recruitment of local men for the river police was effected during the year. Six new river police-stations were established (including three re-opened), and there are now 19 river police-stations in all. Twelve have floating thanas and the rest are accommodated in hired houses on land. Each thana has a *pansi* boat attached to it. Owing to the outbreak of the war, some delay occurred in obtaining new launches and boats from the Dockyard authorities, but the force now possesses a fleet of 11 steam launches, 3 motor launches and 27 *pansi* boats, besides various house boats and cutters. Six launches were made over to the military authorities for the use of the armies in the field.

Charges against the police.

67. Including cases pending from 1913, 457 criminal charges were brought against the police as compared with 471 in the preceding year. The 424 charges disposed of during the year, including 10 of torture, 99 of extortion, 25 of bribery, and 290 of assault and wrongful confinement, etc. Sixty cases ended in conviction, and 364 cases were unsubstantiated, as against 57 ending in conviction and 370 unsubstantiated in the preceding year. One Sub-Inspector was convicted of torture, 7 constables of extortion, 2 constables for bribery, and 3 Sub-Inspectors and 1 head-constable and 53 constables of other offences. The complainants were prosecuted for bringing false charges in 37 cases, of which 25 were disposed of before the end of the year. Twenty cases ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal.

Thirty-six civil suits were instituted against the police, of which 21 were disposed of during the year, with the result that 15 were dismissed, 3 withdrawn and 3 decreed. Revised rules were issued laying down the procedure to be followed in enquiring into cases of serious misconduct on the part of police officers. It has now been provided that in cases in which the Sessions Court or a Court of superior status records its opinion that a special enquiry is

necessary into the conduct of the police, an open enquiry will be publicly conducted by a commission of two officers, one of whom has had judicial experience and neither of whom belongs to the Police Department.

Circle officers.

68. The appointment, in several districts and parts of districts, of circle officers to supervise the chaukidari administration did much to improve the assessment of the chaukidari tax and to secure the more regular and punctual payment of the chaukidars.

The detection of ordinary crime depends largely on information given by the village chaukidars and the grant of rewards is a great incentive to activity and zeal. The advantage of rewarding liberally and promptly in all instances of meritorious work on the part of chaukidars was impressed on all district and subdivisional officers.

Ordinary crime.

69. In the matter of ordinary crime a decrease occurred during the year under the heads "Riot", "Theft", and "Cattle-theft" and an increase under the other heads. The increase was most marked under the heads of "Murder" and "Dacoity". Most of the murders were due to domestic quarrels, intrigues and jealousy, and no special significance can be attached to the increase in this form of crime. The increase in dacoities is, however, directly attributable to the general feeling of unrest and uncertainty caused by the war, which induced the more dangerous criminals to believe that Government would be pre-occupied with other matters and that a good opportunity for organized crime was open to them. Before the outbreak of the war there were distinct signs that dacoities were decreasing, but in the last quarter of the year there were 113 cases as compared with 75 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The increase was most serious in Bakarganj, where dacoity cases had almost ceased in the earlier part of the year. The outburst of crime in this district towards the end of 1914 and in the early part of 1915 was so serious that the ordinary courts became congested with work, and it was found necessary to appoint a special commission under the Defence of India Act for the trial of dacoity cases.

Operations under the Criminal Tribes Act.

70. After much hard preliminary work, systematic operations were undertaken under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1911, against gangs of organised criminals. Nine gangs were declared criminal tribes during the year, and cases against several others were investigated. An interesting feature in connection with this work was the settlement of the gang known as the Karwal Nuts, under the supervision of the Salvation Army, on land acquired in the neighbourhood of Saidpur in the district of Rangpur.

Political Crime.

71. The number of cases connected with revolutionary crime was 12 against 13 in the year 1913. These included 6 dacoities, 1 attempt at dacoity, 4 assassinations, and 1 attempt at assassination. All the dacoities took place in the Eastern Bengal districts except one which occurred in the 24-Parganas. Two of the men assassinated were police officers—Inspector Nripendra Nath Ghose of the Calcutta Police who was shot on the 19th January 1914, and a head-constable of the Intelligence Branch who was killed by a bomb on the 25th November 1914. An informer was shot at Dacca on the 19th July 1914, and another murder occurred at Chittagong on the 19th June, when an unfortunate man was shot by mistake whilst in company with the person whom it was intended to assassinate. On the 18th November 1914 an attempt was made at Madaripur in the district of Faridpur to kill a pleader who had assisted the police in certain enquiries. There can be no doubt that the activities of the revolutionary party were stimulated by the outbreak of the war, and an unusually large number of seditious leaflets were circulated during the year. An unfortunate incident occurred in Calcutta in August 1914, when a consignment of 50 Mauser pistols and 46,000 rounds of ammunition consigned to Messrs. Rodda & Co. was stolen on the way from the docks. Nearly half the cartridges have been recovered, but the fact that Mauser cartridge cases have been found in nearly all the revolutionary dacoities and outrages that have occurred recently shows that the stolen weapons and ammunition have been widely distributed among the members of the revolutionary party.

Arrests were made in connection with three of the murders which occurred during the year, but the accused persons were eventually acquitted. The success of the police in dealing with anarchical crime must not, however,

be judged by these results. After much patient investigation several arrests were made towards the close of the year, and important developments have occurred since both in Bengal and in other provinces. His Excellency in Council expressed his very high appreciation of the excellent work done by police officers, both Indian and European, in combating this form of crime.

Budge-Budge Riot.

72. On the 29th September 1914, 321 passengers, the great majority of whom were Sikhs, landed at Budge-Budge, near Calcutta, from the S.S. *Komagata Maru* on their return from an abortive attempt to enter Canada *viâ* Vancouver. In consequence of information in the possession of Government they were met on arrival by representatives of the Bengal and Punjab Governments, who attempted to persuade them to proceed by special train to the Punjab in accordance with orders issued under the Ingress into India Ordinance, 1914. In the case of 62 persons these efforts were successful, but the remaining passengers refused to comply with the orders and, in defiance of the authorities present, proceeded to march by road in the direction of Calcutta. They were met *en route* by a force of police and subsequently by troops and were persuaded to return to Budge-Budge. While assembled near the railway station there and pending arrangements for their entrainment, a serious attack was made by them on the police, in which firearms were used by the Sikhs. The police defended themselves using such revolvers as they had, but were overpowered. The assistance of the troops was invoked to quell the riot which ensued, and they opened fire on the rioters, who dispersed. In the result, 2 Europeans (1 police officer and 1 railway official), 2 Punjabi police officers, 2 Indian residents of Budge-Budge and 20 Sikhs were killed, and 6 Europeans and 5 Punjab police officers, one villager, together with 22 Sikhs and 1 Muhammadan from among the ship's passengers were injured. In connection with this occurrence 213 persons were arrested, while 26 (including the leader, Gurdit Singh, escaped.)

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction during the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, population and public health.]

Wild animals.

73. The number of persons killed by wild animals rose from 299 in 1913 to 332 in 1914, the increase occurring in the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions. There was a further decrease in the year under report in the total number of deaths caused by tigers, the figure for the year being 60 against 84 in the previous year. There was a marked increase in the number of deaths caused by other wild animals, the total figure being 201 in 1914 against 148 in 1913. Alligators and crocodiles are mainly responsible for this increase, the figures representing deaths caused by these two animals during the year under report being 148 against 99 in the preceding year.

Snakes.

74. The number of persons who died from snake-bite fell from 4,491 in 1913 to 4,356 in 1914. The Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions contributed towards the decrease, the figures in these two Divisions being 1,380 and 992 in 1914 against 1,497 and 1,073 respectively in 1913.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

75. In the year under report, 4,750 head of cattle were killed by wild animals and 117 by snakes against 5,022 and 153 respectively in 1913. The decrease under the former head occurred in the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions only, while the decrease under the latter was most noticeable in the Burdwan Division, where the figure fell from 29 in 1913 to 4 in 1914.

Destruction of wild animals.

76. There was a slight decrease in the total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report, the numbers for 1913 and 1914, being 2,858 and 2,824 respectively. The number of tigers destroyed increased from 180 in 1913 to 205 in 1914, while the number of snakes destroyed fell from 17,134 to 10,215. The decrease was most marked in the Presidency Division, the figures being 8,724 in 1913 and 2,749 in 1914. The district of Hooghly is responsible for this substantial decrease, the floods of 1913 having driven many snakes away from the district. The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 17,477-2-0 and Rs. 157-5-6 respectively, the corresponding figures for 1913 being Rs. 19,051-11-6 and Rs. 172-1-0.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Training School Buildings.

77. The Training School in the Dullunda buildings at Alipore was opened in October, and the alterations and improvements in the building will, it is hoped, be completed this year. The difficulties of recruiting suitable constables continue, and there were 261 vacancies in the ranks at the end of the year. The new building for the accommodation of sergeants was completed, and was opened by His Excellency the Governor in December.

Police Court work.

78. New arrangements for Police Court work were made during the year. In January 1914, a Presidency Magistrate's Court, with jurisdiction over the northern part of the town, was opened in Nimtolla Ghat Street, and another with jurisdiction over the southern part of the town in Kyd Street. Subsequently the Central Court was moved from Lal Bazar to a more convenient and commodious building in Bankshall Street. These re-arrangements provided more accommodation for Honorary Magistrates.

Motor Vehicles.

79. The report of the Committee appointed to examine the rules relating to motor vehicles was considered during the year, together with criticisms and suggestions received from various sources. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914, was brought into force on the 1st April 1915, and the revised local rules were issued on the same day. Motor traffic has increased to such an extent that a special staff under the Commissioner of Police is required to deal with it, and an officer has been appointed to supervise the work which the effective administration of the Act demands.

Juvenile offenders.

80. A further advance in regard to the treatment of juvenile offenders has been made by the opening of a special Juvenile Court with a House of Detention attached in charge of a resident Superintendent, where provision has been made for the instruction and medical care of the boys sent there by the Juvenile Court. During the first six months of its existence, 377 juvenile offenders were dealt with by the Court. Further developments of the scheme are in contemplation, including the appointment of paid probation officers to look after individual cases. Legislation will be necessary in order to place the complete scheme on a legal basis, and a draft bill drawn up by a strong committee, which was appointed to examine the question of juvenile crime, has recently been received, and is now under consideration.

Surveillance of hostile aliens.

81. The treatment of hostile aliens on the outbreak of the war threw a heavy additional burden of work on the Commissioner. He was assisted by 12 gentlemen who rendered invaluable service as special constables in the surveillance of German and Austrian subjects.

Cruelty to Animals.

82. An enquiry into the administration of the Cruelty to Animals Act and into the measures in force in Calcutta for the prevention of cruelty to animals was made by a Committee appointed by Government, and their report is now under consideration.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

83. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 6 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Five Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in four districts, where they decided 45, 9, 8 and 3 cases, respectively. Besides the above, temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, Hooghly, Jessore, Midnapur, and the 24-Parganas.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 351 Stipendiary and 794 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 5 and a decrease of 25, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One Special Magistrate was

employed in Noakhali and he decided 164 cases. Of the 351 Stipendiary Magistrates, 244 exercised first, 83 second, and 24 third class powers. There were 126 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 728 Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. Of the total, 100 were independent, and 26 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

84. There were 342,401 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 9,986 on the figures of 1913. Of the total, 176,528 were under the Indian Penal Code and 165,873 under special and local laws. These totals are less by 2,001 and 7,985, respectively, than those of 1913. The decrease was most marked in the Presidency town, Jessore, Faridpur, and Howrah as regards offences under the Penal Code and in the Presidency town and Midnapore as regards offences under special and local laws.

False cases.

85. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 63,197, or 18·4 per cent., of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending inquiry at the close of 1913. The percentage for the preceding year was 18·3. Complaints were dismissed in 57,782 cases, or 1,133 less than in 1913. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,415, or 275 less than in 1913.

True cases.

86. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 279,775 were found to be true, and of these 236,203 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 13,699 cases. Compared with 1913, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show a decrease of 8,320 and 8,849, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

87. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 98,623 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 137,580 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

A.—Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta. Cases for trial.

88. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was smaller by 13,577 than in 1913. The number of cases under special and local laws was 91,856 or 11,593 less than in 1913, while cases under the Penal Code fell from 8,751 to 6,767. The decrease under the former head was most marked in offences under the Police Act which fell from 62,735 to 53,256. The number of offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals also fell from 13,472 to 9,316. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was a decrease in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., which fell from 4,652 to 2,119. The decrease in all these cases is attributed partly to the decline in trade owing to the war and partly to the activity of the Police in suppressing minor annoyances, while, in regard to cases of cruelty to animals, an additional factor was the extended use of motor vehicles which caused a reduction in the cart and hackney carriage traffic in Calcutta. Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 77,602 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 52,137 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 25,011 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 454 before benches. In 1913, 94,843 cases were decided, of which 88,300 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 6,423 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 120 before benches. One hundred and sixty cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 63 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 410 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates was 22,317, as compared with 22,273 in 1913. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 1,855 or 7·6 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. Of the total number in attendance, 19,104 (79 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 4,007 (16·6 per cent.) on the second; 719 (3 per cent.) on the third; and 342 (1·4 per cent.) after the third day. The number of cases brought before the Court of the Municipal Magistrate was 20,925, all of which were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 20,926, of which 20,392 were decided under the summary procedure. None remained pending at the close of the year.

Compared with 1913, the number of cases instituted and disposed of shows an increase of 3,509 and 3,506, respectively.

Results of trials.

89. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 84,269. Of the persons tried, 13,804 were acquitted or discharged, 70,137 were convicted, 13 persons died, one person was transferred for trial to another district, 74 were committed to the Sessions, and 240 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 10,616 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 4,171 were convicted and 4,244 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	9,236	47,028	83·5
Benches of ditto	100	386	79·8
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly	4,468	22,723	83·5

Of the persons convicted 3,427 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 4 persons including terms of solitary confinement ; 597 were punished with simple imprisonment ; 61,352 with fine ; and 221 with whipping. One hundred and one of the persons sentenced to fine were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Twenty-six sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Three thousand eight hundred and seventy-three convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 391 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 381 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year ; 47 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace ; 145 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code ; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the cases of 208 persons. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows an increase of 51, as compared with 1913.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 25,451 persons were under trial, of whom 24,325 were convicted, 1,119 were acquitted or discharged, and 7 died. The percentage of convictions was 95·5. Of the persons convicted, 14,650 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Calcutta Corporation.

B.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

Cases for trial.

90. At the opening of the year, 5,394 cases, besides cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 137,625 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 138,048 were disposed of ; 4,920 remaining pending at its close. The cases brought to trial were more than in 1913 by 4,530. Under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences against property (1,517). On the other hand, the decrease was most marked in offences relating to public servants (297). There was an increase in cases under special and local laws. The variations under the other heads call for no remark.

An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 17, and a decrease from 9, districts. The increase was most marked in Chittagong (1,589), Midnapore (1,397), the 24-Parganas (853), Dacca (745), and Hooghly (545), while the decrease was greatest in Jessore (918). The increase in Chittagong was both under the Penal Code and under special and local laws, being most marked under the former head, in offences affecting the human body and in offences against property.

The disposals were distributed as follows :—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	1,120	105
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	73,508	43,211
Honorary Magistrates	11,535	1,703
Benches of Magistrates	3,096	3,558
Special Magistrate	164	...

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 48 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The number of cases decided during the year was more than the number decided in 1913 by 5,540. The increase occurred in the Courts of subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates and Honorary Magistrates who disposed of 7,551 and 1,100 cases more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by Benches of Magistrates, District Magistrates and the Special Magistrate shows a decrease of 2,636, 420 and 55, as compared with 1913. The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 1,273, the largest number having been decided, as in the two preceding years, by the District Magistrates of Bakarganj (356), and Mymensingh (282).

Results of trials.

91. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,322 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 136,726 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 191,216 persons were accused, this number being 8,963 more than in 1913. Of the total, 98,788, or 51·7 per cent., were convicted, and 92,428 or 48·3 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1913, 52·1 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 48,547 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 69·2, against 68·5 in 1913. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 34,495, or 31·3 per cent., were convicted and 75,639, or 68·7 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases of 42,359 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried under the Penal Code was 50·8. In 1913, the percentage of such convictions was 50·7. The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1914 was 8,969, as compared with 9,668 in 1913. Fourteen of these, who were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the Magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 599, against 595 in 1913.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates	3,481	4,413	55·9
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	76,855	86,650	52·9
Honorary Magistrates	10,227	7,430	42
Special Magistrate	164	14	7·8
District Magistrates	1,701	281	14·1

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were by Benches of Magistrates, 3,106 ; by subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 46,083 ; by Honorary Magistrates, 1,477 ; and by District Magistrates, 98.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On regular trial	36,076	11,948
On summary trial	3,134	47,630

Punishments.

92. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous ...	...	14,638
	Simple ...	...	651
Fine	With imprisonment	...	2,809
	Without imprisonment	...	77,254
Whipping	Sole punishment ...	...	330
	Additional punishment	...	4

A term of solitary confinement was included in 64 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 56 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school.

Two thousand four hundred and ninety-eight persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,304 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Four hundred and seventy-five persons, against 449 in 1913, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against 57 persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken; all were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 3,888 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, 1,195 on conviction of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 2,682 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 10,428 for terms not exceeding 6 months; 4,414 for terms not exceeding 2 years; and 13 for terms exceeding 2 years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 334 persons, as against 397 in the preceding year. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 7,35,408. Rupees 6,45,029 were realised, of which Rs. 1,08,502 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings. Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII.

93. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt by Magistrates in the mufassal.

There were 2,274 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 9,842 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved were less than the number brought before the courts in 1913. Of the persons concerned, 2,693 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Bakarganj (1,266), Jessore (1,207) and Dacca (918). In Khulna, Bakarganj and Mymensingh there was a large decrease in the number of proceedings of this class, while the figures show a marked increase in Faridpur, Rajshahi and Jessore, as compared with 1913. In 1,603 cases, 3,581 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,921. Of these, 2,736 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 432 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 2,304 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI.

94. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 1,146 cases, and in the cases of 302 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, decided by Magistrates, was 1,813, an increase of 255 on the figures for 1913. Under section 250 of the Code, 627 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, their accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 885 persons, and orders were made absolute against 235.

Witnesses.

95. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 361,422, as compared with 357,564 in 1913. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 184,107 or 33·7 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year, the percentage was 33·1. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 1,31,307 in 1913 to Rs. 1,47,132 in 1914. Of the total number in attendance, 394,038 (72·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 105,268 (19·2 per cent.) on the second; 33,200 (6·1 per cent.) on the third; and 13,023 (2·5 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 175 less than in 1913; on the other hand, the number of witnesses examined was larger.

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

96. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,322, or 115 more than in 1913; and the number decided, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,296, or 101 more than in 1913. There were 193 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments

increased in 14 districts and decreased in 11, and in one district the figures were the same as in the preceding year. The increase was marked in the following districts: in the 24-Parganas from 82 to 117; in Faridpur from 78 to 108; in Bakarganj from 147 to 176; and in Dacca from 77 to 99. On the other hand, the decrease was noticeable in Mymensingh from 167 to 146; in Murshidabad from 32 to 16; and in Midnapore from 60 to 46. The number of commitments was largest in Bakarganj (176).

Results of trials.

97. There were 3,266 persons, or 245 more than in 1913, under trial before Courts of Session. The cases of 2,835 persons were decided and 421 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,835 persons tried, 1,807, or 63·7 per cent., were convicted and 936 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 92 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

98. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session :—

Death		21
Transportion	for life	107
	for a term of years	52
Imprisonment	rigorous	1,198
	simple	10
Fine		79
Whipping		2

In the cases of 16, out of the 1,198 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement. Sixty-seven of the sentences of fine were additional punishments; and in the case of 1 youthful offender the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Besides the above, 432 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (18 for terms not exceeding one year and 414 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour; and 18 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding	15 days	9
	6 months	124
	2 years	484
	7 years	977
Exceeding 7 years		45

Fines to the amount of Rs. 23,856 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 4,250 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 6,643, as compared with Rs. 1,706 in 1913. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation was Rs. 6,491 in 1914, as compared with Rs. 905 in 1913.

Jury trials.

99. The number of persons tried by jury was 1,168 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 973 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 195. The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 71 persons and referred the cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials with the aid of assessors.

100. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 994. In the cases of 691 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 135 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the cases of 168 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1913 were 1,049, 639, 158 and 252, respectively.

Duration of cases.

101. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 40·6 days in 1913 to 42·5 days in 1914. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was highest in the districts of Jessore (67·6 days), Howrah (64·1 days), the 24-Parganas (55·4 days), and Nadia (47·3 days). The increase in the duration of cases from 21·1 to 41·9 days in Darjeeling, from 27·2 to 44·8 days in Chittagong, from 30·6 to 44·1 days in

Bakarganj, and from 30·8 to 43 days in Malda, is noticeable ; there was a marked reduction from 64·8 to 28·8 days in Khulna and from 50·6 to 29·3 days in Bankura.

Witnesses.

102. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 22,753. Of these, 12,724 were examined and 10,029 discharged without examination. In 1913, the corresponding figures were 12,169 and 9,420, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 9,414 (41·4 per cent.) were discharged on the first day ; 7,323 (32·2 per cent.) on the second day ; 3,671 (16·1 per cent.) on the third day ; and 2,345 (10·3 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was higher than in 1913 (9·9 per cent.). The High Court has taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 61,618, as compared with Rs. 52,185 in 1913.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

103. Three cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 63 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 59 were tried during the year, and 7 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 68 persons were tried, of whom 53 were convicted and 15 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 490, and the average duration of cases from commitment was 36·7 days against 27·3 days in 1913.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

104. At the opening of 1914, 34 appeals were pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 678 appeals were preferred, and 661 were decided, leaving 51 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 4 and 14 less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of 17. Of the appeals against sentences preferred 557 were from Courts of Session and 115 from Courts of Presidency Magistrates. Six appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Result of appeals.

105. Five hundred and forty-seven appeals against sentences of Courts of Session were decided. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 468 instances, reversed in 16, and modified in 58. Five cases were remanded for retrial. One hundred and ten appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided, the orders being affirmed in 105 cases, modified in 2 and reversed in 3. The results of the appeals decided, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 763 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that in admitted appeals, sentences on 149 appellants were confirmed, on 105 reduced or altered, and on 45 annulled. In the cases of 6 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Appeals against acquittals.

106. Four of the appeals preferred by the Local Government were decided. Of these two were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges ; one against an order of acquittal passed by an Additional District Magistrate ; and one against an order of acquittal passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

Of the two appeals against the orders of Sessions Judges, one was in respect of an accused person acquitted of an offence under the second part of section 304 of the Indian Penal Code ; the High Court summarily dismissed the appeal. In the other case, the accused was convicted and sentenced by a Deputy Magistrate under section 82 (*c*) of the Indian Registration Act of 1908, but was acquitted by the Sessions Judge on appeal. The High Court set aside the order of acquittal and directed the Lower Appellate Court to rehear the appeal on its merits. In one of the remaining two cases, a registered "Company" was charged with offences under sections 50 and 74 of the Indian Companies Act, 1882 ; the order of acquittal passed by the Additional District Magistrate was set aside by the High Court and the respondent Company was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine. In the last case the appeal to the High Court was against the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, acquitting four persons of an offence punishable under section 21 of the Provident

Insurance Societies Act, 1912. The High Court convicted and fined three of the respondents, and allowed the order of acquittal in respect of the last respondent to stand.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

107. There were 191 appeals pending before the Courts of Sessions at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,447 appeals were preferred, 3,435 were decided, and 205 remained pending at its close. The number of appeals preferred was 209 less than in 1913. In the appeals decided, 5,597 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,123 of these, or 20 per cent., were summarily dismisssd; 2,338 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 893 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence, and 1,173 were acquitted; in the cases of 69 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The case of one person was referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

108. In the Courts of Magistrates, 205 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 4,149 appeals were preferred, 4,136 were decided and 215 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was more than in 1913 by 307. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 6,744. Of these, the appeals of 1,267 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,874, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 4,141 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 61·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 955 appellants, or 14·2 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,555, or 23 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 92 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and one case was referred to the High Court. Compared with 1913, the results were slightly less favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

109. Three references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 27 were made during the year. Twenty-six of these references were decided during the year and 4 remained undecided at its close. The result of the twenty-six cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 7 cases, set aside in 12, and modified in 6. One case was remanded for retrial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

110. Eighteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1914, and 5 were pending at the opening of the year. Sixteen were decided during the year, in which 18 persons were concerned: the death sentences on 5 were confirmed, and in the cases of 5, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of one person, a sentence of eight years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted; 5 persons were acquitted, and the cases of the remaining 2 persons were remanded for retrial.

Revision.

111. During the year, 179 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 10 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 177 were decided, and 11 remained pending. One case abated on the death of the applicant. The number reported was 36 less than in 1913. In 77 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside, or the proceedings quashed, and in 22 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 20 cases, and enhanced in 1. In the remaining 57 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,350 cases, a decrease of 22 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,349 came before the High Court on applications made to it and one was taken up of its own motion.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 870 were rejected. Of 479 rules issued, 144 were finally discharged; 167 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 61 cases and quashed in 4; in 103 cases a new trial was ordered.

In the case taken up by the High Court *suo motu*, the accused was convicted by the Lower Court of offences under sections 304 and 379 of the Indian Penal Code and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment under the former section. The High Court upheld the conviction and enhanced the sentence to one of ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

Applications for transfer.

112. Seventy-one applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (62 original cases and 9 appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files; all of them were disposed of. Twenty-nine were summarily rejected, and in 15 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 27 cases rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 11 and refused in 16 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

113. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 8,829 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was less than in 1913 by 62. The applications of 2,872 persons were rejected, and as regards 2,799, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 65 persons were reversed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the cases of 14 persons. The cases of 262 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 2,817 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

114. The cases of 2,979 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was less by 376 than in 1913. Of the total, the applications of 1,199 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 822 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 39 persons were modified, and those affecting 209 were reversed. In the cases of 12 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 625 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 73 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trial of European British subjects.

115. The cases of 41 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 57 in the previous year. All of these were dealt with by Magistrates. Of the accused persons, one claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of, 20 persons were convicted and 21 acquitted. The convictions were in 15 cases for offences under special and local laws; in 2 cases for offences affecting the human body; in one case for an offence against property; in 1 case for an offence against public tranquillity and in 1 case for defamation. The number of European British subjects tried was again largest in Darjeeling (17).

Results of criminal work.

116. During the year under review, there was an increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases disposed of by Magistrates in the mufassal. There was a very large decrease in the amount of work disposed of by the Stipendiary Presidency Magistrates; on the other hand, there was a substantial increase in the outturn of the Honorary Magistrates. Magistrates disposed of more appellate, but less revisional, work during the year. In the Courts of Session there was an increase of original, but a decrease of both appellate and revisional work. In the High Court there was a slight decrease in appellate and revisional work. Forty persons (30 in Bakarganj and 10 in the Presidency town) were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 12 were convicted, 17 were acquitted and 11 remained under trial at the close of the year.

Receipts and charges.

117. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers calculated according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 27,97,038. Of this amount, Rs. 15,74,408 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 1,51,444 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 83,647 for process-servers; Rs. 4,28,257 for other

establishments ; and Rs. 5,59,282 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 17,21,720. Of this amount, Rs. 8,41,031 were under fines ; Rs. 1,92,063 under process-fees ; Rs. 1,83,389 under copying and comparing fees ; Rs. 4,28,191 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above ; and Rs. 77,046 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges were more than those of 1913 by over Rs. 79,000 and Rs. 39,000 respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

118. The number of cases brought to trial during 1914 in the scheduled district of Chittagong Hill Tracts was 154. The total number of cases disposed of was 138. The number of witnesses examined was 625. The total number of persons under trial, including those awaiting trial from the preceding year, was 366 ; of these, 199 were acquitted or discharged, and 142 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 29 were for theft, 12 for criminal trespass and 36 for offences under special and local laws. The total number of appellants and applications for revision was 40, of whom 27 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Jail population.

119. The total number of prisoners in the jails of Bengal rose from 12,098 at the beginning of 1914 to 13,000 at the end of the year, the increase being equal to the population of four or five district jails of average size. Overcrowding of the accommodation for male prisoners occurred on occasions in a number of the jails, and it is clear that the question of enlarging the existing jails or of building new jails will have to be faced at no distant date. It is noteworthy that 23 per cent. of the persons imprisoned during 1914 had been previously convicted, while the proportions in the two preceding years were 21 and 17 per cent. The daily average number of undertrial prisoners was 1,439, or 13 less than in 1913 ; the average period of detention was also slightly reduced. Of the convicts imprisoned, 34·5 per cent. had sentences not exceeding one month. This is an improvement on 1913 when the proportion was 36·2. There is still room for further improvement, inasmuch as petty sentences of imprisonment are often more deleterious than deterrent.

Health and mortality of prisoners.

120. The Central Jails have on the whole a good health record, but there was a serious recrudescence of dysentery in Midnapore. The mortality during the year was 21·8 per thousand of the daily average jail population ; this rate is slightly higher than in the previous year. There were no deaths in the jails at Howrah and Khulna, while in Hooghly, Berhampore, Darjeeling, Bogra, Pabna and Comilla the mortality was less than 10 per mille. The provincial mortality rate was seriously exceeded only in the Jessore, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri jails all of which draw their population from unhealthy tracts. In the last three jails new and improved hospitals are being built or have been sanctioned. In Jessore the necessary remedial measures are being taken, under Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan's personal supervision, to reduce the excessive sickness, which is attributed, among other causes, to the prevalence of flies. The benefit prisoners derive from the regular attention paid to their health in jails, and the value of the prophylactic use of quinine are shown by the fact that, though most prisoners have suffered from malaria previous to admission, few are attacked more than once whilst in jail. Fifty-six per cent. of the convicts released during the year had gained in weight, while only 23 per cent. had lost.

Juvenile Jail.

121. The Juvenile Jail at Alipore, which was opened in 1908, continues to do good work, but the beneficial effects of the system are often marred owing to the want of an "After-care Association," which exists in connection with similar institutions in other countries, to obtain employment for and to watch over the boys after their release. An undertrial ward for boys awaiting trial at the Calcutta Courts has been opened in the Juvenile Jail, and a

further advance in the treatment of youthful offenders has been made by the establishment in Calcutta of a House of Detention which is not a prison and in which is included a Court for the trial of juveniles under the age of 15 years. These children are not allowed, either during trial or after conviction, to enter a jail.

Jail Industries.

122. The part played by the Juvenile Jail in connection with the distribution of quinine is interesting. So rapid has been the growth in public favour of the quinine "treatment" in glass tubes, that more than 24 million four-grain tablets of quinine were issued in this form, as compared with 6 millions in the preceding year. In other jails the usual industries were carried out with efficiency, the most notable features of the year being the closing of the Press at the Dacca Jail and the opening of a Forms Department at the Alipore Jail.

Dietary.

123. The use of the improved physiological dietaries recommended by Major McCay is being extended gradually and the number of prisoners who voluntarily adopt the wheat rice dietary is increasing. The experiment has not, however, been carried out as yet on a sufficiently large scale to enable any definite conclusion to be reached.

Warder Establishment.

124. The question of improving the pay and prospects of warders in order to attract suitable men and to retain them in the service has engaged the serious attention of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India for some time past, and it is hoped that a final decision will not be long delayed.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Judicial staff.

125. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1914 consisted of 15 High Court Judges; 21 District Judges; 6 Additional District Judges; a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 43 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, 4 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 2 the powers of a Munsif. The temporary appointments of the four Additional Judges appointed to the High Court in 1912 in pursuance of section 3 of the Indian High Courts Act, 1911 (1 & 2 Geo. 5 cap. 18), were sanctioned for a further period of two years. Thus the total number of Judges remained the same, *viz.*, 19, as in the previous years.

The following changes in the *personnel* of the High Court took place during the year :—

Mr. Sayid Hassan Imam, Mr. Charles Porten Beachcroft, Mr. Edmund Pelly Chapman, and Mr. Basanta Kumar Mullick took their seats as Additional Judges of the High Court, the first three on the 5th February and the last on the 11th March, 1914. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Carnduff was placed on special duty under the Government of India from the 18th to the 30th March, 1914, and Mr. Hugh Walmsley was appointed to act in that vacancy. Mr. Walmsley again officiated as a Judge of the High Court *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Carnduff, on leave, from the 29th May to the 3rd September, 1914. The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sayid Hassan Imam who was acting as an Additional Judge was confirmed as a Judge of the High Court with effect from the 15th November, 1914, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stephen, resigned. Mr. William Ewart Greaves was appointed as an Additional Judge in the vacancy caused by the confirmation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sayid Hassan Imam, with effect from the 23rd November, 1914.

In addition to the permanent staff, the following temporary appointments in the subordinate courts were sanctioned during the year :—

Temporary Additional District Judges were employed in the following districts :—One in Bakarganj, one in Faridpur, one in Jessore, one in Midnapore, one in the 24-Parganas and one in Hooghly.

The appointment of an Additional Judge in the Presidency Small Cause Court was continued.

Temporary Additional Subordinate Judges were employed at Chittagong, Noakhali, Rajshahi, Burdwan and Rangpur. Temporary additional Munsifs were employed at Dacca-Narayanganj, Noakhali, Balurghat, Iswarganj and Jamalpur, Chittagong, Serajganj, Khulna, Bhanga, North Raojan, Rampurhat, Comilla and Chandpur, Barisal and Malda.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits.

126. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1913 was 1,607 including 26 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1914 was 1,458, including 8 Prize cases, 25 suits received by transfer from other courts and 6 remanded for retrial during the year, making a total of 3,065 for disposal in 1914. Of the suits instituted during 1914, 928 were for money or moveable property, 146 were mortgage suits, and 71 were for immoveable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 95,66,958-4-1, as compared with Rs. 72,56,788-13-2 in the previous year. The number of suits decided in 1914 was 1,234, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,831. The number of suits under trial was 224 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 780 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 50 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 267 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 23 were withdrawn with leave, 27 were determined by compromise, 98 were decreed on confession, 343 were decreed *ex parte*, 23 were dismissed *ex parte*, 8 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 301 were decreed after contest, and 144 were dismissed after contest.

Prize cases.

127. Consequent on the outbreak of war, 8 cases were brought before the Prize Court. Seven of these cases were against ships, viz.—

(1) The "Frankenfels,"
(2) The "Trostburg,"
(3) The "Kurmark,"
(4) The "Freienfels,"
(5) The "Rotenfels,"
(6) The "Pagenturm,"
(7) The "Perla,"

and 1 against the cargo of the "Rappenfels."

As regards the first 7 ships the Court pronounced them to have been, at the outbreak of the war, enemy merchant ships in the port of Calcutta, and as such liable to detention and requisition. This adjudication was without prejudice to any further proceedings in prize in relation to the said ships, and all questions as to damages and costs were reserved.

As regards the cargo of the last mentioned ship, 57 claims were filed, of which 55 were disposed of and 2 remained pending at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

128. At the commencement of the year, 3 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and one suit was transferred to it during the year. All of them remained pending at the close of the year.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

129. During the year 420 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 8,354 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.) were disposed of. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications, and for summonses to witnesses, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The number of such applications was 3,177. The remaining applications (5,177) were disposed of by the Court or a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

130. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 217. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 360 cases. Of the total number of references, 398 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Official Referee and Master and their assistants.

Conveyances and sureties.

131. During the year, the Registrar settled 26 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 81 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 132 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

132. The number of appeals from the original to the appellate side of the court pending at the commencement of 1914 was 93, and 92 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 3 were dismissed for default and 104 were decided ; the decrees of the court of first instance were affirmed in 65 cases, modified in 11 and reversed in 22. Six cases were remanded for retrial. Seventy-eight appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, none of which had been pending for more than two years.

References from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

133. At the commencement of the year four references were pending, and one was made during the year under review. All of them remained undecided at the close of the year.

Transfers from the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

134. Fifteen cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 17 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that court. All the applications were granted. Of the 32 cases for disposal, 3 were decreed, 2 were dismissed, 2 were withdrawn and 2 were settled. The remaining 23 cases were pending at the close of the year. Twenty-two applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 22 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 10 applications were refused, in 14 cases the rules issued were discharged, and in 4 cases the rules issued were made absolute, and 2 cases were referred to arbitration. Fourteen cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency cases.

135. The number of cases, under the old and new Acts, pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 188 and 678, respectively, and the number instituted during the year was 296. Of the 1,162 cases for disposal, 284 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed, in 185 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 99. There were also disposed of during the year 1,135 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Duration of sittings.

136. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 25 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 83 days, and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 100 days. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for 29 days. Appeals from the original side occupied a Bench of two Judges for 89 days. Prize cases occupied the time of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for 11 days.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

137. Eight appeals from the original side were pending from the previous year, and 4 were admitted during the year. Four of these appeals were disposed of during the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

138. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the original side during 1914 were Rs. 3,25,549-11-4 and Rs. 4,69,763-7-3 respectively.

Taxing Office.

139. The number of bills between party and party taxed during the year was 946 and of bills between attorney and client 506.

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 23,137-8. This sum is also included in the item "other fees realised by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

Original suits instituted.

140. The number of suits instituted in 1914 was 589,994, a decrease of 32,328 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease occurred in money,

rent and title suits to the extent of 6·7, 4·3 and 2·5 per cent., respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 249,064 against 267,138 in 1913. The total value of suits instituted in 1914 amounted to Rs. 8,78,89,562, showing an increase of over Rs. 1,32,00,000 over the total for 1913. The increase is due to the fact that four title suits of the aggregate value of over a crore were instituted in Burdwan during the year.

Local distribution.

141. There was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1914 in all the districts with the exception of Hooghly and Midnapore. The decrease was most marked in Dacca, Tippera, Mymensingh and Rangpur. In the first three districts it occurred chiefly in money suits; in Rangpur it was conspicuous in rent suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (55,451), where the number of money and title suits (29,338 and 8,057, respectively) was the heaviest in the Province. In no other district did the institutions reach 50,000. In Bakarganj, the 24-Parganas and Dacca institutions were between 40,000 and 50,000. Rent suits were most numerous in Bakarganj (30,725). The second place in respect of the institution of rent suits is occupied by Midnapore (20,882). Institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000 in the districts of Tippera, Midnapore and Faridpur, and between 20,000 and 30,000 in Rangpur, Jessore, Chittagong, Hooghly, Dinajpur, Noakhali, Murshidabad, Nadia and Pabna-Bogra. In Khulna, Rajshahi and Burdwan the institutions were between 15,000 and 20,000. Bankura with 11,634 and Birbhum with 11,522 show the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

142. The majority of suits instituted were as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show :—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
	Rs.			
Not exceeding ...	10	15,368	70,581	4,104
	50	108,966	134,454	19,064
	100	58,369	39,845	10,995
	500	61,234	27,157	24,029
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated.		5,127	2,078	8,623
Total ...		249,064	274,115	66,815

In suits for money or moveables 49·9 per cent., and in rent suits 74·7 per cent., were for sums of less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 98·9 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 32·9 per cent. were mortgage suits, 47·1 per cent. were for immoveable property, and 9 per cent. were for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value more than half of the total litigation of the province. All the 19 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, were title suits.

Number of suits and results decided.

143. In addition to the 589,994 suits instituted during the year and the 167,522 suits pending trial from the previous year, 11,788 suits were revived, or received on remand or review, making a total for disposal of 769,304. The number of suits disposed of was 600,444, a decrease of 28,939 on the figures of 1913. Of the total disposed of, 565,508 were disposed of by Munsifs, 17,514 by Subordinate Judges, 16,863 by Small Cause Court Judges, and 559 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show a decrease of disposals in the courts of Munsifs, Small Cause Court Judges and District and Additional Judges. In the suits disposed of during the year plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 129,301 cases or 21·5 per cent., of which

95,818 were dismissed for default; in 74,135 cases, or 12·4 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 397,008 cases or 66·1 per cent. The results show little variation from those of the preceding year. Of the 110,613 suits decided on contest, 93,641, or 84·6 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 16,972, or 15·4 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for retrial.

144. The percentage of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, was 5·5, the numbers being 21,710 and 392,764, respectively. The applications were successful in as many as 10,444 cases, or 48·1 per cent.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

145. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs fell from 594,554 to 565,508, a decrease of 29,046. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 2,298 against 2,416 in 1913. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 28·7 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 103,111, or 18·2 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 419 against 432 in 1913. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 19, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 16·1. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 14,676 as compared with 1913.

Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

146. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 17,514, an increase of 763 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,508 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 13,006; of these, 37·1 per cent. and 20·6 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest both under the ordinary and the Small Cause Court procedures shows a slight decrease, as compared with the previous year. The provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 16,863 original suits, of which 2,936 were contested. The latter shows a decrease of 527 as compared with the previous year.

Average duration of cases.

147. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement :—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	226	465	225	...
	Uncontested	182	263	122	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested ...	...	89	103	100
	Uncontested	...	59	61	58

Except in uncontested suits decided by District Judges and in uncontested small causes decided by Subordinate Judges, the results show no improvement, as compared with the previous year.

Pending suits.

148. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 168,952 against 167,523, in the previous year. The rise in the pending file is chiefly due to smaller disposals during the year. Of the pending cases, 6,186 had been pending for more than a year; 59,760 for more than six months, and 35,881 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the number of suits pending over one year and six months but a sensible reduction in the number pending for more than three months. Of the suits pending over one year, 4,930 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,256 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing an increase of 1,382 and 163, respectively, as compared with 1913. The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Mymensingh (762); Nadia (667); the

24-Parganas (601); Bakarganj (563); Chittagong (444); and Pabna-Bogra (423). The number of year-old suits in each of these districts shows an increase as compared with the previous year, the congestion being chiefly in the courts of Munsifs. As usual, the delays were generally due to adjournments granted at the request of the parties. Additional assistance was given to those districts where the files appeared to be too heavy for the normal staff.

Execution proceedings.

149. There were 94,505 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 399,711 applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 116,261 cases and partial in 70,543. In 208,437 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 89,660 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were markedly unsuccessful in Tippera, Nadia, and Faridpur, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 65·1, 63·9 and 59·6, respectively. The results show a perceptible increase in the cases of Nadia and Faridpur. The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,61,15,974. Debtors were imprisoned in 131 cases; moveable property was sold in 8,126 and immoveable property in 50,167 cases.

Miscellaneous cases.

150. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 70,032 to 70,836. The number disposed of and pending also rose from 69,819 and 17,858 to 71,190 and 17,949, respectively. Of the cases disposed of, 30,897 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 23,589 were decided *ex parte*; and 16,704 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 51·6 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 155 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Hooghly (27). The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted were 11,951 in number, showing a decrease of 671. Of these, over three-fourths were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 12,526, and the pending file fell from 1,341 to 766. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was again highest in the 24-Parganas (1,473) followed by Rajshahi (1,443) and Hooghly (1,040).

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

The number of suits.

151. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1914, and the number pending at its close, were 25,469, 26,211 and 3,447, respectively. The figures show an increase of 3,120, 2,669 and 638, respectively, as compared with the previous year. Fifty-nine applications were filed under section 626 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1899). The increase in institutions was spread over all classes of suits. The total value of the litigation was Rs. 51,72,178, as against Rs. 44,03,527 in the preceding year. The average duration of contested and uncontested suits was 53·9 and 37 days, respectively. The figures for 1913 were 55·9 and 35·7, respectively.

Mode of disposal.

152. Of the 26,211 suits disposed of, 1,712 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 19,658 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 4,835 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 6 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised ...	6,779
Decreed on confession ...	4,490
Decreed *ex parte* ...	8,313
Dismissed *ex parte* ...	76
Total ...	19,658

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

153. Ninety-two appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 93 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 107 were decided and 78 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 68 more than in 1913. Of the number undecided, none were pending for more than two years. One hundred and nineteen third appeals were filed during the year, and 140 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 88 were decided, and 171 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—*Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.*

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

154. The statement in the margin shows the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year. The figures include appeals from the courts of the provinces of Bihar and Orissa and of Assam. The institutions of first appeals from decrees and orders were, respectively, 44 and 28 more than in 1913. The number of second appeals from decrees and orders was less by 429 and 9, respectively, than in the preceding year.

	Pending at the end of 1913.	Preferred.	Decided	Pending at the end of 1914.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,611	609	637	1,583
„ orders ...	726	368	365	729
Second Appeals.				
From decrees ...	8,284	3,895	4,925	7,254
„ orders ...	295	246	251	290
Total ...	10,916	5,118	6,178	9,856

Appeals pending.

155. At the close of the year, 2,312 first appeals were pending, of which 1,583 were from decrees and 729 from orders; and 7,544 second appeals, of which 7,254 were from decrees. The total is less than the number pending at the close of 1913 by 1,060.

Result of appeals.

156. Of the 637 appeals from original decrees decided, 115 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest was that the decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed in 344 cases, reversed in 94, and varied in 40, while 44 cases were remanded. Of the 4,925 appeals from appellate decrees decided, 149 were uncontested and 1,987 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code. Two thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine were heard and determined, with the result that 1,904 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 353 reversed and 106 varied, while 426 cases were remanded. Of the 616 appeals from orders decided, 83 were uncontested, 121 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11, of the Civil Procedure Code, and 412 were decided after trial with the result that 274 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 85 reversed and 19 varied, 34 cases being remanded. The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

	Affirmed.		Modified or reversed.	
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from original decrees	104	238	37	97
Appeals from appellate „	929	975	304	155
Miscellaneous appeals ...	140	134	61	43

Appeals to the Privy Council.

157. At the opening of the year 75 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 34 were pending for orders. Two hundred and twenty-three new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 38 were struck off or compromised, 21 were despatched to England, and 273 appeals were pending at the close of the year—2 of 1911, 14 of 1912, 46 of 1913 and 211 of 1914. Of the pending appeals, 87 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

158. The results of 15 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 7 instances and reversed in as many; one appeal was remanded.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

159. Eighteen thousand three hundred and thirteen appeals were instituted in 1914, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 1,286. The number of appeals instituted rose in spite of a large falling off in the number of suits disposed of by the subordinate courts. Of the appeals instituted, 8,078 were in title suits, 7,952 in rent suits, and 2,283 in suits for money or moveables. The numbers show an increase in the institution of appeals of all classes. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 2,090 and 5,967, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 32,37,169, being more than the total of 1913 by over four lacs of rupees. The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts, was 71,381, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 24·2 per cent., as against 22·2 in 1913. The highest percentages were 34·8 in Hooghly, 34·5 in Chittagong, 30·5 in Khulna and in Dacca, and 30·2 in Tippera; and the lowest were in Dinajpur (12·4), Murshidabad (13·2) and Rangpur (15·2). The number of appeals instituted was larger than in the previous year in 12 districts and smaller in 9. The largest increases were in Faridpur (521), Hooghly (224), Jessore (211), Dinajpur (201), the 24-Parganas (155), Rajshahi (143), Chittagong (136), and Burdwan (109); while there was a noticeable decrease in Noakhali (289). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals decided.

160. The number of appeals decided (17,366) was more by 1,916 than in 1913. In the courts of District and Additional Judges disposals increased by 163 and in those of Subordinate Judges by 1,753. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (14,380) was 1,504 more than in 1913. The increase in disposals was spread over 15 districts and was greatest in Chittagong (526) and Pabna-Bogra (319). The increase in Chittagong was partly due to the greater measure of temporary assistance given during the year, and partly to the District and Additional Judges being able to devote more time to civil work. In Pabna-Bogra the increase was chiefly due to appeals in rent suits. There were noticeable decreases, on the other hand in Noakhali (329) and the 24-Parganas (266). The falling off in disposals in Noakhali is due to the fact that a large number of analogous appeals was decided in that district in the previous year. In the 24-Parganas the result appears to be accounted for partly by the fact that the Subordinate Judges devoted a greater proportion of their time to original work, while the District Judge and the Additional Judges were able to devote less time to civil work than in the previous year. The explanations given, where there has been a decline in disposals, have been considered by the High Court in reviewing the district reports.

Appeals pending.

161. There were 16,834 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 1,658 more than at the end of 1913. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 1,401 to 2,225. The number was largest in Midnapore (630) where assistance has been given to the staff.

Result of appeals.

162. The result on the decision of the lower courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 9,476 cases, or 54·6 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,860 cases, or 10·7 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,725, or 15·7 per cent., it was reversed. Eight hundred and eighty-three appeals, or 5·1 per cent., were remanded, and 2,422 or 13·9 per cent., were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results are, on the whole, less favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year.

General.

163. There was a large decrease in the original work coming before the subordinate courts, but as a result of diminished outturn, chiefly in the courts of Munsifs, the pending file increased. There was an appreciable increase in the appellate disposals, but the pending file became heavier owing to a rise in institutions. The number of year-old suits and appeals was greater than in the previous year. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, the institutions were less than in 1913; and increased disposals led to a substantial reduction in the pending file.

Inspection.

164. The courts of 15 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 109 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional District Judges.

Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts.

165. The receipts of the civil courts amounted to Rs. 1,30,34,157, an increase of Rs. 1,69,292 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 60,51,629, an increase of Rs. 1,16,223 on those of 1913. Inclusive of the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 69,82,528 or Rs. 53,069 more than in 1913, and exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 61,75,447.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	5,15,634(a)
In other courts	2,91,447(a)
	*8,07,081

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1914-15.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN THE SCHEDULED DISTRICT OF THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

166. The total number of suits instituted during 1914 in the civil courts in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 596. The suits were for money or moveable property. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 690. Of these suits, 65 were contested and 191 were disposed of without trial. The number pending at the close of the year was 89, the number of miscellaneous cases was 1 506. Of these 1,131 were decreed *ex parte*, and 221 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of appeals from decrees was 42, and the number disposed of 32. Four miscellaneous appeals were preferred, and all were disposed of. One thousand one hundred and seventy-nine applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 375 were pending at the close of the year.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Registration.

167. Eight offices were opened during the year, 1 at Haroa in the district of the 24-Parganas, 2 offices in the district of Dacca, viz., Serajdhikhan and Teota, 1 joint office at Mymensingh, 1 at Babuganj in the district of Bakarganj, 1 at Atrai in the district of Rajshahi, and 2 in the district of Bogra, viz., a joint office at Bogra and an office at Khetlal. The office of the Joint Sub-Registrar of Calcutta at Barabazar and the second joint office at Jamalpur in the district of Mymensingh were abolished with effect from the 1st April 1914 and 16th May 1914, respectively. Two temporary joint offices, 1 at Kishoreganj and the other at Nandail in Mymensingh, were opened during the year to relieve pressure of registration and were abolished when such pressure disappeared. The total number of registration in books 1, 3 and 4 decreased from 1,558,370 in 1913 to 1,525,613 in 1914, that is, by 2·1 per cent. in the Burdwan Division. Except in Birbhum the total number of registrations increased. The increases in registrations in Burdwan, Hooghly, Bankura, Howrah and Midnapore by 2·1 per cent., 4·7 per cent., 6·1 per cent., 12·9 per cent. and 4·7 per cent., respectively, are due to the serious flood which visited portions of these districts in August 1913. Registrations declined in the 24-Parganas and Jessore districts by 3·7 per cent. and 9·2 per cent., respectively. In the Dacca Division registrations decreased largely in Dacca and Faridpur, namely, by 13·4 per cent. and 22·9 per cent., respectively. In Faridpur mortgages decreased by 24·3 per cent., perpetual leases by 18·8 per cent., term leases by 25·5 per cent. and bonds by 12·3 per cent. It is surmised that this is due to the general dislocation of trade by the war. In Mymensingh, the most important registration district, the falling off was only slight (·3 per cent.). Bakarganj on the other hand closed the year with an increase of 4·5 per cent. In the Chittagong Division registrations increased on the whole by 5·2 per cent. in Chittagong and by 7·6 per cent. in Noakhali, but there was a decrease of 8·7 per cent. in Tippera. Owing to failure of crops in Chittagong there was an increase of 8·5 per cent. in mortgages and an increase of 10·1 per cent. in money bonds. In Noakhali the increase (8·4 per cent.) in mortgages is attributed partly to the fact that people mortgaged occupancy rights

as the Civil Courts did not recognise the sale of such rights. Except in Bogra, registrations decreased in all other districts of the Rajshahi Division. Compulsory registrations affecting immoveable property decreased from 1,330,499 in 1913 to 1,298,828 in 1914 as a consequence of the war.

Working of the Marriage Act, III of 1872.

168. The number of marriages registered during the year 1914-15 under the Act was 36 against 35 in the previous year. Of these 28 were registered in Calcutta, 2 in Dacca, 2 in Mymensingh, and 1 each in Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Chittagong and Howrah Out of 48 marriage Registrars, including *ex-officio* Registrars under the Act, only 9 marriage Registrars and one *ex-officio* marriage Registrar registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 21 to 40 and those of the brides from 15 to 42. Three widows, whose ages ranged from 19 to 42, were remarried.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and the Kazi's Act.

169. As in the preceding year, Bengal Act I of 1876 (an Act for the Voluntary Registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was in force in 26 districts in this Province. There were 275 registration offices at the end of the year 1914-15 against 271 in the previous year. Three offices were abolished during the year, 2 in the town of Calcutta and 1 in the district of Bankura. Seven new offices were sanctioned, 2 in each of the districts of Dacca, Bakarganj, and Mymensingh and 1 in the district of Noakhali. There were registrations in 264 offices and no work was done in the remaining 11 offices. The total number of ceremonies registered decreased by 9·4 per cent. as compared with the previous year, the figures being 61,423 and 67,795 respectively. The decrease mainly occurred in the Dacca Division. The total receipts of the Muhammadan Registrars and Kazis, including gratuities amounted to Rs. 1,21,250 against Rs. 1,36,581 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 11·2 per cent.

Working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913).

170. The Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), was in full operation throughout the year. From the 1st April 1914, the date on which the new Act came into force, a separate whole-time officer was appointed to perform the duties of Registrar under this Act as well as under the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912, and the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912.

A good deal of ignorance and hostility towards the new Act (VII of 1913) was at first displayed by the directors and officials of certain Indian companies who had neglected to acquaint themselves with their duties under the new Company law and therefore failed to realise their proper responsibilities. Persistent efforts were made throughout the year to compel these companies to file their documents regularly, and no less than 120 prosecutions had to be instituted for the purpose. These measures effected some improvement and the majority of the Companies subsequently complied with the requirements of the law. The provisions of section 277 of the Act regarding the registration of companies incorporated outside British India were more readily complied with by the commercial community in Bengal.

Twenty-eight certificates were granted by Government during the year entitling the holders to act as auditors of companies under Act VII of 1913. The number of companies registered during the year was 73 as against 165 in the preceding year, the decrease being chiefly due to the abnormal conditions created by the war. Of these companies the registration of 1 was cancelled and of the rest 57 were limited by shares, 4 were limited by guarantee and 11 were registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Sixty-six companies limited by shares and 1 company limited by guarantee ceased to work or went into liquidation or were finally dissolved during the year. Two hundred and sixty-two companies increased and only 5 reduced their capital during 1914-15. The number of companies limited by shares working at the close of the year was 970 with an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 30,57,57,779 and a nominal capital of Rs. 93,89,22,000 compared with 973 companies in the preceding year with a capital of Rs. 28,51,34,118 and a nominal capital of Rs. 92,89,62,900. The total amount of fees realised during the year was Rs. 34,920-14 as against Rs. 37,663 in the year 1913-14, the decrease being due to the smaller number of registrations in 1914-15, than in the preceding year.

171. Rules were published by Government in the year under report under section 24 of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (Act V of 1912). The Provident funds established by Government, local bodies and private employers for the benefit of their employés were exempted from the operation of the Act. The Societies were very dilatory in forwarding their rules for registration, only 25 being registered within the six months laid down by the rules. Consequently 103 were prohibited from carrying on business. This produced an immediate result and 55 have since registered their rules. **Working of the Provident Insurance Societies Act, (V of 1912).**

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the municipalities in the Bengal Presidency (except Calcutta) during the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

172. The number of the municipalities in the Province remained unchanged, viz., 111. Proposals were submitted to Government for the modification of the boundaries of the Nadia and Madaripur Municipalities, and the question of dividing South Barrackpore and Serampore into two municipalities each and alterations in the boundaries of Rangpur and Darjeeling were under consideration. The boundaries of the Berhampore Municipality were revised, increasing its area. **Number of municipalities and revision of boundaries.**

173. General elections were held during the year in 21 municipalities. The majority of these elections were well contested. Party feeling in excess led to instances of sharp practice in one municipality, and there was litigation in connection with the general elections of Barisal and Nator. **Elections.**

174. The total number of meetings held fell from 2,174 to 2,159, of which 151 as against 134 last year failed for want of a quorum. Five municipalities failed to hold at least one meeting a month. **Number of meetings and attendance of Commissioners.**

175. The increase in the number of rate-payers from 314,562 to 318,099 was shared by all divisions except Rajshahi. Discovery of an excess in the number of rate-payers shown for Darjeeling in last year's report accounts for a slight decrease in the figures of this division. The number of rate-payers in the Burdwan Municipality rose again by 1,440 with the construction of new huts in place of those washed away last year by the floods. The percentage of rate-prayers to population for all municipalities averaged 16·08, ranging from 34·9 in Kalna to 3·6 in Titagarh. **Number of rate-prayers.**

176. In two wards of the South Dum-Dum Municipality a tax on persons was replaced by a tax on holdings. Otherwise the rates on holdings and persons were levied as before. Latrine-fees were levied in 93 municipalities, a water-rate in 19, and a lighting rate in Darjeeling and in three municipalities adjoining Calcutta. The only change in respect of these rates was the introduction of a water-rate in Jessore and Hooghly-Chinsura. The average incidence of taxation per head of population rose from Rs. 2-1-1 to Rs. 2-6-10. It varied from 5 annas 8 pies in Bajitpur to Rs. 8-10-1 in Darjeeling. The Presidency Division as before showed the lowest average (Rs. 1-13-7). **Assessment and taxation.**

177. General or partial revision of assessment took place in 41 municipalities, resulting in increase of demand with a few inconsiderable exceptions. The largest increases are :— **Revision of assessment.**

	Rs.
Kurseong	9,415
Chandpur	6,986
South Dum-Dum	6,706
Berhampore	6,467
Dinajpur	6,214

Imposition of a water-rate for the first time brought in a sum of Rs. 17,059 in Hooghly-Chinsura and Rs. 10,220 in Jessore. Assessment of new and improved holdings caused an increase of over Rs. 2,000 in Maniktala and Titagarh, and approximately Rs. 1,500 in Jalpaiguri.

Collections.

178. The total collections rose from Rs. 39,83,558 to Rs. 42,20,568. To this increase the Presidency Division contributed, in round figures, Rs. 1,20,000, and the Burdwan Division Rs. 70,000, while all divisions of Eastern Bengal shared in the balance. The percentage of total collections on current demand rose from 94·15 to 96·03. The highest divisional percentage is that of the Presidency Division, which rose from 91·4 to 97·8. Eighteen municipalities in all succeeded in making collections equal to or in excess of the demand. Sixteen municipalities in the Burdwan, Presidency and Dacca Divisions had outstanding balances of less than Rs. 100, including six with no balance, remission in all cases being kept down to a minimum. Among these the small municipalities of Nalchiti and Garulia show neither opening arrears, outstanding balance, nor remissions.

The total remissions fell from Rs. 1,58,861 to Rs. 1,56,742, and their percentage on current demand from 3·7 to 3·5. Seven municipalities in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions remitted over 10 per cent. on current demand, notably Bankura with a percentage of 17·7 on a demand of Rs. 20,177, and Taki with a percentage of 14·8 on a demand of Rs. 3,600.

The outstanding balances rose from Rs. 3,16,741 to Rs. 3,35,821. Twenty-two municipalities had outstanding balances of over Rs. 5,000 as against 14 last year.

Income and expenditure.

179. The total receipts of the municipalities, including opening balances, rose from Rs. 88,64,602 to Rs. 93,64,836. Of this increase, however, only Rs. 54,539 was under heads of actual income. There was an increase of Rs. 3,07,260 in loans from Government, Rs. 1,18,259 in sale of Government securities and withdrawals from Savings Bank, and Rs. 67,829 in opening balance. There was an increase of Rs. 2,24,314 in receipts from rates and taxes, and a decrease of Rs. 1,66,852 in grants and contributions.

The total expenditure rose from Rs. 69,58,164 to Rs. 72,18,133. There was an increase of Rs. 2,55,699 under the head "Extraordinary and Debt" due chiefly to investments in Savings Banks. The total expenditure under all other heads hardly varied from that of last year.

Closing balance.

180. The closing balance rose from Rs. 19,06,438 to Rs. 21,46,708. The largest balances were held by Howrah (Rs. 4,50,516), Chittagong (Rs. 2,09,740), Darjeeling (Rs. 1,30,553), Narainganj (Rs. 1,11,259), Dacca (Rs. 1,08,816), and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 1,00,147). These large balances are mainly due to unexpended balances of grants and accumulated funds for water-supply and drainage schemes.

INCOME.

Total receipts.

181. The total income of the year, excluding that under the heads "Opening Balance" and "Extraordinary and Debt" increased from Rs. 55,73,291 to Rs. 56,27,830. Details of the main items of revenue are given below.

Tax on houses and lands.

182. There was an increase under this head of Rs. 90,570, of which the Presidency Division contributed Rs. 52,622. The largest increases occurred in Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 32,995), Baranagar (Rs. 11,315), and Dacca (Rs. 9,221).

Tax on animals and vehicles.

183. Receipts under this head decreased by Rs. 2,321. This is ascribed to the failure of cart traffic consequent on the dullness in the jute trade.

Tax on professions and trades.

184. There was an increase under this head of Rs. 6,174. The most noticeable features of the receipts were an increase of Rs. 5,150 in Howrah and of Rs. 2,722 in the municipalities of the 24-Parganas, slight depression in the other districts of the Presidency Division and continued decline in the Chittagong Municipality.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

185. A decrease in receipts under this head of Rs. 192 in all is the result of an increase in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and a decrease in all the divisions of Eastern Bengal.

Water-rate.

186. The rate was levied for the first time in the municipalities of Jessore and Hooghly-Chinsura, which contributed, respectively, Rs. 7,428 and Rs. 13,781 to the total increase of Rs. 65,426. Better collections resulted in an increase of Rs. 15,302 in Cossipore-Chitpur, Rs. 5,989 in Dacca and Rs. 2,044 in Mymensingh, and revision of an assessment in an increase of Rs. 4,065 in Berhampore and Rs. 2,600 in Kurseong. Receipts in Narainganj again declined. An apparent decrease of over Rs. 5,000 in Darjeeling is due to inclusion last year of sale-proceeds of old materials.

Lighting-rate.

187. Of the four municipalities in which this rate is levied Cossipore-Chitpur contributed Rs. 11,373 out of a total increase of Rs. 12,085. There was a petty decrease in Maniktala.

Conservancy.

188. The increase under this head amounting to Rs. 59,312 was shared by all divisions. Proceeds from the sale of nightsoil fell from Rs. 4,298 to Rs. 2,643. The Serampore Municipality made a few rupees by trenching nightsoil on private grounds.

Tax on persons.

189. A decrease of Rs. 7,557 is largely accounted for by the abolition of this tax in two wards of the South Dum-Dum Municipality.

Realisation under Special Acts.

190. The Presidency Division contributed Rs. 1,391 out of a total increase in receipts under this head of Rs. 2,119. Fees under the Hackney Carriage Act were imposed for the first time in Kishoreganj and Pabna. The Chandpur Municipality failed to derive any income this year from jute-warehouse fees.

Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.

191. The increase of Rs. 3,079 is the outcome of an increase generally under the heads of "Rents, Fees and Fines" and "Other Fees" counter-balanced by a decrease of slightly over Rs. 15,000 in the receipt from investments for general purposes.

Grants and contributions.

192. There was a decrease under this head of Rs. 1,66,852.

The following were the larger grants made by Government :—

Rupees 50,000 to Hooghly-Chinsura and Rs. 44,815 to Uttarpara for water-supply.

Rupees 1,00,000 to Narainganj and Rs. 40,000 to Berhampore for extension and improvement of water-supply.

Rupees 10,433 to North Dum-Dum and Rs. 7,246 to Panihati for Drainage Scheme.

Rupees 20,000 to Chittagong for the combined post of Secretary and Engineer.

Rupees 18,060 in all to Midnapore, for water-supply (Rs. 5,000) and educational purposes (Rs. 13,060).

Rupees 15,000 to Burdwan to recoup the losses sustained from flood.

Rupees 11,771 to Darjeeling for medical purposes.

The following instances of private liberality deserve special mention.

The municipalities of Raniganj and Burdwan received grants of Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 3,000, respectively, from the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, the former in aid of a water-supply scheme and the latter for the improvement of a charitable dispensary.

Babu Ram Chandra Guha and Babu Surja Kanta Chaudhuri made a grant of Rs. 4,780 to the Basirhat Municipality for the diversion of a road and for a tank. The Moslem community at Garden Reach contributed Rs. 1,268 to the local municipal fund for a Muhammadan burial ground. The Hon'ble Babu Upendra Lal Ray contributed Rs. 1,000 to the Chittagong Municipality for the construction of a road.

Contributions were also made to municipalities from various local funds, the largest being a grant of Rs. 13,000 made to the Natore Municipality from the Edward Memorial Fund for the purposes of water-supply. The municipalities of Jessore and Chandpur received contributions of Rs. 9,100 and Rs. 10,000, respectively, from the District Boards towards water-supply.

EXPENDITURE.

Office establishment and collection charges.

193. Notwithstanding an increase of Rs. 15,414 in expenditure under this head, the percentage of this expenditure as to total expenditure decreased from 8·2 to 7·9 for the Province, ranging in individual cases from 4·2 in

Khulna and 4·7 in Hooghly-Chinsura, Dacca, Chandpur and Jessore to 22·1 in Comilla, 25·2 in Debhatta, and 26·2 in Nalchiti.

Prevention of fire.

194. Of the increase of Rs. 1,842 under this head approximately half is due to increased expenditure on appliances in Darjeeling.

Lighting.

195. Expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 5,782. The Darjeeling Municipality incurred an extra cost of Rs. 3,916 in connection with the new hydro-electric scheme, and Kurseong Rs. 1,023 on account of 16 petrol lamps. In Dacca electric lighting was extended to certain important streets with the help of a grant of Rs. 6,000 made by the trustees of the Electric Light Fund. Four municipalities spent nothing on lighting.

Water-supply.

196. The expenditure on water-supply decreased by Rs. 4,80,142. this being the result of a decrease of over Rs. 5 lakhs in capital outlay, while the cost of maintenance increased by approximately Rs. 33,000. The only large original scheme to be completed during the year was that for the supply of filtered water in Hooghly-Chinsura. Two new filters were completed in Serampore, and the Kamarhati Municipality made temporary arrangements for the supply of filtered water from the hydrants of the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality. The Baranagar Jute Mills erected a filter for supplying filtered water to mill *bustees*. The existing water-supplies in the larger municipalities of the interior worked well, with the exception of that at Barisal, where the municipality is reported to have made no provision for dealing with the difficulty caused by the river water becoming brackish in February. Fair progress was made during the year with the water-supply scheme in Bankura. The improvement of the water-works in Burdwan has had to be postponed for want of funds. Two new distribution lines were opened by the Kurseong Municipality and a new pump was purchased at Patuakhali. Tanks and wells were provided as before in the smaller municipalities.

The scheme for the extension of the Narayanganj water-supply to the municipal area on the east side of the river Lakhya at a cost of Rs. 1,70,000 received the final sanction of Government. A grant of one lakh was paid to the municipality and a loan of the balance has been sanctioned. Final sanction was also accorded to the scheme for the completion of the Barisal water-works at a cost of Rs. 20,000. A detailed scheme for the water-supply of the Satkhira Municipality was submitted to Government. Administrative approval was accorded to schemes for the improvement of the water-supply of the Dacca Municipality and of Berhampore, construction of a water-supply for the northern part of Chandpur and for the English Bazar Municipality, and for an independent water-supply at Uttarpara. The detailed project of the Dacca scheme was placed before the municipality during the year. The provision of a water-supply at Ranaghat, Asansol, Raniganj, Suri, Faridpur, Madaripur, Nator and Krishnagar was also under consideration of the municipalities concerned or of Government in various stages, preliminary to administrative approval.

The question of the control of the catchment area in connection with the water-supply of Kurseong, with a view to preserve the sources of supply from pollution is still under the consideration of Government.

Drainage.

197. There was an increase of Rs. 3,18,102 under this head, of which Rs. 3,08,050 was due to capital outlay. This was largely due to an increase of over three lakhs in the Howrah Municipality. Apart from this the largest capital expenditure was incurred by the Burdwan Municipality (Rs. 33,493). The drainage scheme of the Ranaghat Municipality was completed during the year, and there remain only two sluice-gates to be provided for the completion of that of the Kushtia Municipality. Progress was made with the construction of drainage works at Katwa and in the most congested part of the Bhadreswar Municipality. The greater part of the sanctioned scheme for surface drainage in Kurseong was executed during the year. The North Dum-Dum and Panihati Municipalities constructed subsidiary drains in connection with the Bagjola Drainage Scheme. The Baruipur Municipality received a grant of Rs. 4,950 for removing defects of drainage, and a scheme for Garden Reach has been subsequently sanctioned. Government were unable to accord administrative approval either to the drainage or water-supply schemes for the Mymensingh town owing to the unsatisfactory financial position of the municipality. A combined drainage and water-works scheme for Krishnagar was

submitted to Government. Preliminary surveys were conducted by the Sanitary Engineer in Dacca, Bogra and Malda. Drainage schemes for the Nadia and Santipur Municipalities have been held in abeyance for want of funds.

Conservancy.

198. There was an increase in expenditure of Rs. 73,135 under this head. In the Presidency Division 18 municipalities spent a sum of Rs. 21,115 for the entertainment of Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors.

Hospitals and dispensaries and plague charges.

199. A decrease of Rs. 22,223 on the total for last year was entirely due to a decrease in plague charges, largely nominal on account of a change in classification. New wards were added to the hospital at Bankura, and a new dispensary and hospital buildings were constructed at Ghatal. A female ward was erected in Budge-Budge and phthisical wards in Krishnagar and Jessore. An isolation ward for cholera and small-pox cases was built by the Mymensingh Municipality. The Barisal Charitable Dispensary and Hospital was placed under a joint committee appointed by the municipality and the District Board. Contributions for new medical institutions were made by the municipalities of Mymensingh and Madaripur. The municipalities of Rangpur and Pabna were unable wholly or in part to make contributions to local dispensaries through want of funds, and the Bogra Municipality failed to increase their contribution to the Bogra Dispensary in an unhealthy year. No municipality suffered from an epidemic of plague, but several found it necessary to take steps to prevent the spread of local outbreaks of small-pox and cholera.

Public Works.

200. Expenditure under this head decreased by Rs. 29,977 in all.

There was a decrease of Rs. 8,626 in expenditure on roads, and of Rs. 25,076 on account of buildings, and a slight increase under the sub-heads "Establishment" and "Stores."

The chief features were larger expenditure on roads in the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions, an increase on account of buildings in the Presidency Division; and an abnormal decrease on this account in the Rajshahi Division. The percentage of outlay on public works to total expenditure ranged from 2·1 in Kurseong, where the municipal roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and 7·3 in Kishoreganj to 52·5 in Kandi.

Public instruction.

201. There was an increase of Rs. 25,178 under this head, of which the Dacca Mnnicipality alone contributed Rs. 20,734. The Dacca Municipality spent the largest proportion of its ordinary income on primary education, viz., 13·3 per cent., followed by Nator (12·9 per cent.), and Cox's Bazar (10·1 per cent.). Only 23 municipalities spent over 5 per cent. of their income on primary education.

Loans.

202. Forty-two municipalities were in debt at the end of the year, and the total amount of their indebtedness, after deducting Rs. 7,751, the amount of the sinking fund investments of the Burdwan Municipality, was Rs. 45,97,266. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 24,70,938), Darjeeling (Rs. 8,02,785), Dacca (Rs. 2,90,069), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,88,288) and Narainganj (Rs. 1,32,721). Six municipalities took loans during the year, viz., Howrah (Rs. 4,34,000 for the drainage scheme), Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 63,000 for water-supply), Chittagong (Rs. 50,000 for water-supply), Jessore (Rs. 15,000 for water-supply), Bankura (Rs. 10,000 for water-supply), and Tangail (Rs. 10,000 for drainage). The South Barrackpore Municipality paid off its liabilities.

Liabilities.

203. On the 31st March 1915, 82 municipalities had outstanding liabilities on current bills amounting to Rs. 2,66,076, which represented 7·2 per cent. of their current demand. In 12 municipalities the outstanding liabilities exceeded the closing balance. This excess was reduced in the case of Hooghly-Chinsura from over Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 12,831. The position of Rangpur with an excess of Rs. 2,471 and Pabna (Rs. 2,470) was unsatisfactory. The latter municipality was the subject of a special enquiry and report during the year under review.

Audit of accounts and embezzlement.

204. Embezzlements came to light during the year in the municipalities of Bhadreswar, Burdwan, Rampur-Boalia and Pabna. In Bhadreswar, Rs. 2,455 was embezzled by the municipal head-clerk, who has since absconded. Criminal proceedings were pending at the end of the year in

respect of Rs. 262 alleged to have been embezzled by the priest of the burning ghât in Burdwan. In the two other municipalities the sums embezzled were recovered and the offenders dismissed. No embezzlement was reported from the Dacca or Chittagong Division. A petty misappropriation has been under enquiry in Nadia.

Freedom of budget.

205. Four municipalities are allowed a free hand in the preparation of their budget. Among these the finances of Burdwan are unsatisfactory, and Cossipore-Chitpur showed a tendency to avoid provision for an adequate working balance, but Howrah and Maniktala made sound use of the privilege.

Howrah.

206. The current demand on account of taxes rose from Rs. 9,53,203 to Rs. 9,79,935. The total demand amounted to Rs. 10,21,838, of which Rs. 9,35,380 or 91·5 per cent. was collected. The total ordinary income of the municipality fell from Rs. 11,49,445 to Rs. 10,49,825, and ordinary expenditure from Rs. 15,74,216 to Rs. 13,68,749. The outstanding debt was Rs. 24,70,938, Expenditure on water-supply fell from Rs. 7½ lakhs to Rs. 1,93,505. Failure on account of the war to obtain from Government loans required hampers the further carrying out of the water-works improvement scheme. Two new filters for the supply of water to the Serampore Municipality were completed. Possession has now been taken of all the land required in connection with the construction of the Central Drainage Canal for which a grant of one lakh and loan of 5½ lakhs have been received from Government. The preparation of *pucca* drainage schemes discharging into this canal has been completed. The estimates for these works amount to over Rs. 12 lakhs.

The survey of the town has made good progress. Proposals for introducing the necessary sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act to cope with insanitary *bustees* are still under consideration of the Commissioners.

Administration.

207. The reports of the Burdwan Division show much continuity in the character of the municipalities. The business-like methods of Sonamukhi, the quiet progress of Tamluk and Arambagh, the comparative cleanliness of Birbhum call for praise, while the factions of Uttarpara and Chandrakona, the feeble administration of Bansberia, and the financial embarrassments of Burdwan call for energetic measures to remedy. The Magistrate of Hooghly finds no noticeable improvement in the methods of collection. Notwithstanding the carelessness discovered in audit of the accounts of Bhadreswar, the executive have done their best to cope with a volume of work beyond the capacity of one municipality.

The Magistrate of Howrah again speaks well of the Lillooah Ward Committee, with the suggestion that it might become a separate municipality.

Of the municipalities in the Presidency Division Cossipore-Chitpur and Garden Reach in the 24-Parganas have shown enterprise and good management, while party feeling is reported to have brought the administration of Maniktala practically to a standstill. Absence of opposition begins to render progress possible in the busy trading centre of Kotchandpur, and the administration of the Debhatta Municipality in Khulna improves. The Jessore Municipality has found its new water-works not altogether a success and suffers from a want of funds due to inadequate self-taxation.

The management of municipalities in the Bakarganj district is well spoken of, with the exception of Barisal.

Progress with the scheme for water-supply in Chittagong has been hampered by the war. Erosion on the south of Noakhali deters the Commissioners from undertaking permanent works.

The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division reports that with the exception of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur, municipalities at district headquarters compare unfavourably with those in the interior. Darjeeling and Kurseong have fully maintained their reputation for efficiency. The affairs of the Pabna Municipality which were in a precarious state last year are now in other hands. The Nator Municipality goes sensibly about its work, and Sherpur did well. Rampur-Boalia is noticeable for defective finances, laxity of executive supervision, and dishonesty among the collecting staff, while Sirajganj suffered from the retirement of Marwari merchants on the collapse of the jute trade.

Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Introductory.

208. The revenue of the Corporation has been very little affected by the war. The receipts exceeded the budget estimate by over Rs. 1½ lakh, while the curtailment of expenditure effected a saving of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs on the budget figures. The net result of the year's working therefore leaves the Corporation Rs. 5½ lakhs better off than their original estimate, and the closing balance now exceeds Rs. 36 lakhs.

Elections.

209. The fifth General Election of Ward Commissioners under the present Act was held on the 23rd March 1915. There were 38,412 voters with 95,492 votes. In 14 Wards there was no contest. It was only in Wards 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 18, 23 and 25 that any real interest was evinced. The votes cast were 57 per cent. of the voting power of the contested Wards, as compared with 42 per cent. in 1912.

By-laws and Rules.

210. Much attention has recently been given to the enforcement of the by-laws relating to theatres and places of public entertainment. Rules have been framed during the year prescribing the qualifications of candidates for employment as Analysts, Food Inspectors and Inspectors of meat shops and slaughter-houses, and the rules framed in 1906 under Section 96 (5) regulating the conduct of business at the meetings of Special Committees have been amended.

Revenue Funds.

211. The Revenue Funds opened with a balance of Rs. 28,60,587. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,16,43,764 and the payments to Rs. 1,08,96,084, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 36,08,267. On the basis of assets and liabilities, the closing balance was Rs. 27,32,550. The cost of establishment charged to Revenue was 21·6 against 22·1 for the previous year.

Loans.

212. The sanction of Government was obtained to the raising of a loan of Rs. 35¾ lakhs. Debentures to the extent of Rs. 7,22,000 were issued during the year under report. The Loan Funds opened with a balance of Rs. 15,67,884, and the receipts amounted to Rs. 8,81,763. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 9,40,811.

Loan Liability, Borrowing Powers and Sinking Fund.

213. The total outstanding debt of the Corporation at the close of the year was Rs. 4,99,49,500. The amount now payable for the service of outstanding loans is Rs. 30,29,191 per annum. This leaves a margin of Rs. 11,80,917 for the service of fresh loans. The amount which can be borrowed with this amount at disposal, assuming that the rate of interest is 4 per cent. and the Sinking Fund contribution 1 per cent., is Rs. 2,36,18,000. The year closed with a balance of Rs. 40,14,179 in the Sinking Fund.

Assessment.

214. The annual valuation of the city was increased by nearly 19½ lakhs. It stood at 434 lakhs on the 31st March 1915. The remissions for vacancy were only 3 per cent. of the gross demand.

Surveyor's Department.

215. Plans and estimates were prepared for 252 projects as compared with 253 in the previous year. The total value of the estimates amounted to Rs. 118 lakhs as against Rs. 162½ lakhs in 1913-14. Land acquisition proceedings were instituted in 50 cases as against 60 in the previous year, the area to be acquired being 215½ *bighas* as compared with 24¾ *bighas* in 1913-14. Four new street alignments were prescribed during the year and those already prescribed for two streets were revised. The whole list of street alignments was carefully examined with a view to bring it into conformity with the schemes of the Improvement Trust. Some progress has been made with the revision of the survey of the Added Area, which is being carried out at the expense of the Improvement Trust.

Collections.

216. The year opened with a total demand for Rs. 81,86,831. Out of this amount Rs. 76,87,458 was collected, Rs. 3,96,656 was remitted or cancelled by the Assessor, Rs. 12,050 was transferred to the Law Department, and Rs. 4,010 was cancelled as irrecoverable. The total gross current demand was Rs. 78,59,905, being nearly 3¼ lakhs more than in the previous year. The total nett current demand amounted to Rs. 76,65,884. The percentage of collection on the nett current demand was 99·68, the corresponding

percentage during the previous year being 99·61. The total demand for miscellaneous bills was Rs. 7,36,596. Out of this sum Rs. 7,09,455 was collected.

Bustee Department.

217. Fourteen new *bustees* were taken up and improvements were completed in 25 premises. In addition to this huts were removed from about 29 *bighas* of insanitary *bustees*. Over a mile of new *bustee* road was opened out and sanitary conveniences were provided at the cost of the owners. Standard plans of 14 *bustees* were prepared and approved by the General Committee, and hut alignments were prescribed in 30 *bustees*.

Stores Department.

218. The Central Stores Godown and the two branch depôts in Districts I and IV have not yet been constructed. Steady progress is being made in perfecting the organisation of the department and in introducing order and method in the receipt and issue of stores.

Water-supply.

219. The total quantity of water supplied to Calcutta during the year averaged about 60¼ (35¾ filtered and 24½ unfiltered) million gallons per day. There was an increase of about 2 million gallons daily in the unfiltered water. The average consumption per head of population per day was 32·8 gallons of filtered and 27·4 gallons of unfiltered water. The Water-supply Committee are employing careful tests to locate and prevent waste in the water-supply with a view to bring about a continuous high pressure supply.

Drainage.

220. The Canal area drainage works were completed during the year. The total cost of the project has been Rs. 44½ lakhs. The health of the neighbourhood has been appreciably improved as the result of the scheme. The sewers, which drain the low-lying area in the neighbourhood of Amherst Street and Cornwallis Street, have now been connected to the Canal Area high level sewer, and the present rainy season show a sensible decrease in the duration and intensity of flooding in this district.

There is still not much progress to report in connection with the surface drainage project for Wards 19 to 22. About 2 miles of new sewers have been constructed in the unsewered area west of Tolly's Nullah.

Regular observations taken show that, though the rate of silting of the Bidyadhari is not so rapid as was at one time supposed, the river is on the whole in a worse condition than it was in 1913.

Lighting.

221. Eight hundred and twenty gas lights have been added during the year. Fifty-nine lights were discontinued. Five hundred and twenty-two light lanterns have been put up at street corners with glass street name tablets. During the year 1,668 old lamps have been replaced by new ones. Electric lights have been erected in a few streets as an experimental measure. Only 124 oil lamps could be removed during the year as against 337 in the previous year.

Roads and squares.

222. The total expenditure on account of road repairs amounted to Rs. 8,12,000 as against Rs. 8,65,000 in the preceding year. The total area dealt with by tar-macadam was 20,000 square yards, and the cost amounted to Rs. 47,090 as against Rs. 99,000 in the previous year. The Corporation is still experimenting with different kinds of pavements to find out a suitable road surface for the streets of Calcutta. The scheme for the paving of footpaths has been practically completed.

The total expenditure upon the upkeep and improvement of squares and the planting and maintenance of roadside trees amounted to about Rs. 45,000 as compared with Rs. 30,306 in the previous year.

A start was made with the scheme for planting trees by the side of all roads where the footpaths are sufficiently wide.

Conservancy.

223. The proposal to experiment with motor lorries for the removal of street refuse is in abeyance owing to the war. The expenditure under the heads of street cleansing, incinerators and Municipal Railway amounted to Rs. 10,35,500 as against slightly less than Rs. 9 lakhs in the previous year.

Health Department.

224. The fall in the birth-rate continued, the number of births registered being 17,386, equivalent to 19·4 per thousand, as compared with 20·5 per thousand in the previous year. This may be due as presumed last year to failure in reporting births. The total number of deaths was 25,431, or 28·3 per thousand against 26,188, or 29·2 per thousand last year. Plague, cholera and small-pox caused 3,463 deaths as compared with 2,736 in 1913, but there was a distinct drop in the mortality from other diseases. The death-rate

amongst females was as high as 38·5 per thousand. The rate of infantile mortality rose from 274·8 to 282·7 per thousand births registered. The free distribution of simple sanitary appliances to Indian midwives is being continued, and instruction in the use of these artieles is given by the Health Department staff. The recrudescence of plague in 1914 was very mild. For the first time since the appearances of the disease, Calcutta was declared free from plague for a certain time. There was a mild epidemic of small-pox, the deaths numbering 1,038 against 120 in the preceding year. The number of deaths from cholera was 1,983 as compared with 1,764 of the previous year. The death-rate from malaria in the town proper was only ·95 per thousand, whereas in the suburban area it was 2·2 per thousand.

The number of prosecutions for adulteration of food rose from 763 in 1913 to 1,115. The appointment of an extra Food Inspector has had good results. The new by-law regarding the keeping of manufactured articles of food in closed receptacles came into operation during the year. The question of improving the milk supply, however, is still under consideration. A declaration has already been made requiring the removal from residential areas of certain offensive trades into prescribed localities. The practice of picking rags at the refuse platforms and storing them in unlicensed premises has now been practically stopped.

Markets.

225. The receipts from the Sir Stuart Hogg Market (Rs. 4,20,160), Lansdowne Market (Rs. 4,230) and the Sir Charles Allen Market (Rs. 6,794) all continue to show an increase. There was a serious fire in the Sir Stuart Hogg Market, Block B. The staff of the market was reorganised. Reforms in various directions were taken up, especially in the matter of regulating the prices of food-stuffs. The improvement of the private markets of the city received its due share of attention from the Health Department, and some improvements in their sanitary condition were effected.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

226. Twenty-two thousand eight hundred and sixty cases were instituted as against 22,043 of the preceding year. Including pending cases 1,429, the Magistrate had 24,289 cases to deal with. Convictions were obtained in 19,427 cases, and the total amount of fines imposed was Rs. 1,14,655. One thousand seven hundred and ninety-two cases were pending at the close of the year.

Education.

227. The aggregate amount of aid given to educational institutions of all kinds was Rs. 76,824. The special grant of Rs. 2,400 to the Deaf and Dumb School was continued. The total number of schools receiving aid was 440, and the average daily attendance was 25,354. The grants to libraries amounted to Rs. 5,875, the number of libraries aided being 29.

Hackney Carriage Department.

228. The falling off in the number of hackney carriages still continues. The total number registered during the year was 3,060 as compared with 3,620 in the previous year. The principal cause of this falling off is the increase in the number of motor taxi-cabs. There has been an appreciable improvement in the quality both of carriages and horses, and the number of cases in which prosecution had to be resorted to fell in consequence.

Establishment.

229. The Corporation in their review of the Administration Report for 1914-15 urged the claims of Muhammadans to a larger share of appointments on the Corporation.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[The Reports on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust for the three years 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15.]

Creation of the Trust.

230. To carry out the duties specified in the Calcutta Improvement Act V of 1911 a Board called "The Trustees for the Improvement of Calcutta" consisting of 11 Trustees, was created in 1912. It held 55 ordinary, and one special, meetings during 1914-15.

Schemes considered by the Board.

231. Up to 31st March 1915, 17 improvement schemes, described below, were framed and published by the Board.

Scheme No. I (Surti Bagan) is for the construction of 1,350 yards of road, 40 to 45 feet wide (estimated nett cost Rs. 20,08,000).

Schemes Nos. IA and IB.—These are subsidiary to general improvement scheme No. I.

Scheme No. II (Shambazar Bridge Road) has been designed to improve the approaches to the north of Calcutta (estimated nett cost Rs. 7,36,000).

Scheme No. IIA provides for the widening of a part of Cornwallis Street (estimated nett cost Rs. 75,000).

Scheme No. III is a scheme for improving the sanitary conditions of the area in proximity to the site selected for rehousing scheme No. 1 in Wards Institution Lane (estimated nett cost Rs. 3,34,000).

Scheme No. IV is for the widening of the first mile of Russa Road, between Elgin Road and Hazra Road (estimated nett cost Rs. 12,20,000).

Scheme No. IVA provides for the widening of the Russa Road and the development of an area on each side of it between Hazra Road and the Eastern Bengal State Railway bridge (estimated cost 48½ lakhs).

Scheme No. V is a street scheme to improve an area of 23·4 acres in the suburb of Bhowanipore. The cost of acquiring land is estimated at Rs. 52,80,000.

Scheme No. VI (estimated cost Rs. 75 lakhs).—This supersedes the original scheme to provide a new main thoroughfare from the north-east corner of Dalhousie Square meeting Harrison Road close to the Howrah Bridge. Under the revised scheme the proposed road follows a regular curve, and, instead of coalescing with Clive Street, is carried into the Strand Road. The scheme also contemplates the widening of Old Chinabazar south of Canning Street.

Scheme No. VII (estimated cost about Rs. 25 lakhs) provides for a Central Avenue from Beadon Street to Machuabazar Street between Chitpur Road and Cornwallis Street and for a spur running south-west from the Central Avenue to Upper Chitpur Road.

Scheme No. VIIA (estimated cost Rs. 4,36,000) contemplates the widening of Halliday Street forming a continuation of the Central Avenue proposed in Scheme VII.

Scheme No. VIIB is to continue the Central Avenue from Colootolla Street to Bowbazar Street at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,95,000.

Scheme No. VIIC (estimated cost of Rs. 13,68,000) provides for an east and west diagonal road running between Scheme No. VII (Central Avenue) and Maniktala.

Scheme No. VIII (estimated cost of Rs. 16,39,000) is for the extension of Park Street across Lower Circular Road to meet the Eastern Bengal State Railway line in the neighbourhood of Bridge No. 4 and for laying out a park 29 acres in area.

Scheme No. IX is a small scheme for the widening of Old Post Office Street at premises Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the cost of which is estimated at Rs. 81,000.

Dalhousie Square Improvement Scheme (estimated cost Rs. 1,89,000). The object of the scheme is to relieve congestion of traffic in part of the roadway round Dalhousie Square.

Besides the schemes described above, the Board considered the question of providing squares in congested areas of the city and decided to allot Rs. 10 lakhs for the purpose.

Town-planning Exhibition.

232. In conjunction with the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the Government of Bengal invited Professor Geddes of Edinburgh to visit India during the cold weather of 1914 to deliver a series of lectures on town-planning illustrated by his extensive exhibits bearing on the subject. The Professor delivered his lectures in Calcutta after the close of the year and the Improvement Trust paid one-half of the expenditure incurred.

Finance.

233. Out of the lump grant of Rs. 50 lakhs sanctioned by the Government of India for the Calcutta Improvement Schemes, Rs. 40 lakhs were paid to the Board during the three years ending 31st March 1915. Other receipts on the Capital account were from sales of land, buildings, moveable properties, etc., which amounted to Rs. 3 lakhs. The expenditure on Capital account was 52 lakhs, incurred principally on land acquisition and engineering works. The expenditure on Revenue account was about Rs. 8 lakhs against total receipts of Rs. 75 lakhs derived from special taxation and contributions from the Corporation and Government, leaving a surplus of about Rs. 67 lakhs at the close of the year 1914-15.

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the Working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India—Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Meetings of District Boards and Local Boards.

234. The number of meetings held during the year by the 25 District Boards in the Province was 400 against 378 of the preceding year. Among these 8 proved abortive for want of a quorum. All District Boards met at least once a month. The number of members increased by 2 elected and 2 nominated through the enlargement of the Nadia Board. The District Boards of Bankura, Midnapore and Hooghly were reconstituted during the year.

There was no change in the number of Local Boards. Of 943 meetings called by Local Boards 54 failed for want of a quorum, the total number of meetings held being slightly less than that of last year. Seventeen Boards out of 72 failed to meet once a month.

Elections.

235. General elections were held in Burdwan, Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Nadia, and bye-elections in Nadia, Faridpur and Rajshahi. Lively interest was reported to have been taken in the general elections in the Presidency Division and in Burdwan, while even Bankura, where five thanas out of nine failed to return their representatives, showed an improvement on the previous elections. Several of the bye-elections failed and the vacancies were filled by nomination.

Powers of District and Local Boards.

236. There had been no change in the powers of District and Local Boards under the Act or rules framed under it. The Local Boards continued to administer the funds placed at their disposal for the maintenance of roads and improvement of village sanitation, and were in charge of the management of pounds, except those situated within the boundaries of a Union Committee, and ferries. There is, however, some variation of practice as to the control of primary education.

Union Committees.

237. The number of Union Committees increased from 55 to 65 in the Western Bengal districts and remained 11 in Eastern Bengal. Seven new committees were established in the 24-Parganas, two in Khulna and one in Midnapore. Importance was attached in the constitution of new unions to their coincidence, as far as possible, with Chaukidari Unions and the inclusion of the panchayats among the members of the committee. The average area of the unions was reduced during the year from 9½ to 9 square miles, and the average population from about 9.500 to below 9,000. The older Union Committees remain unaltered with a maximum population of 28,243 and a maximum area of 19 square miles. The number of meetings averaged about 7 during the year, and the number of members about 8.

The total income of the Union Committees, exclusive of the opening balance, increased by Rs. 30,768, and the total expenditure by Rs. 28,799 as against last year's increase of Rs. 27,453 and Rs. 26,686, respectively. The total closing balance was Rs. 28,056. Receipts from self-taxation under section 118C of the Local Self-Government Act, which last year were quadrupled, rose this year from Rs. 14,606 to Rs. 18,125. The three Union Committees in Birbhum continue to be conspicuous in the use of these powers, raising Rs. 7,528 out of the provincial total. Six Union Committees in Jessore raised Rs. 3,255. Two unions in Hooghly and two in Khulna recorded receipts from this source for the first time this year. District Board contributions at varying rates still form the bulk of the Union funds. Receipts under the Cattle Trespass Act almost doubled in spite of the fact that none are yet credited to the seven new unions in the 24-Parganas. In Murshidabad the Aurangabad Union raised a subscription of Rs. 378 from the villages, and private contributions were received by the committees of Rajbari and Pangsa in Faridpur.

Roads and village sanitation consumed respectively about one-half and a third of the total expenditure, while water-supply is the largest of the smaller items. In the Burdwan Division special mention is made of the interest taken by the Union Committees at Pandua and Dubrajpur in sanitation and water-supply. The latter union also paid special attention to the troublesome question of encroachments on village roads. A lively interest was taken in the roads in the Howrah district. In the Presidency Division special

grants were made by the District Boards of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Khulna to unions for expenditure on sanitation. The Patkabari Union Committee in Murshidabad introduced tube-wells, and the Fultala and Daulatpur Unions repaired drains. But the most ambitious scheme reported is that of the Bagerhat Union in Khulna for the construction of a *pucca* drain in the Bagerhat Bazar at a cost of Rs. 3,255, of which Rs. 333 was spent during the year. The Feni and Akhaura Unions in the Chittagong Division continued their arrangements for conservancy.

Financial results.

238. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 51,19,881 to the credit of the District Boards, and the total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 1,00,47,964. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 1,08,37,529. The closing balance was reduced to Rs. 43,30,316. The income and expenditure for the last two years under the main heads are shown below :—

INCOME.					EXPENDITURE.				
HEADS.	1913-14.		1914-15.		HEADS.	1913-14.		1914-15.	
	Income.	Percentage of total income.	Income.	Percentage of total income.		Expenditure.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Expenditure.	Percentage of total expenditure.
	Rs.		Rs.			Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue ...	558	·005	383	·003	Administration ...	2,31,458	2·7	2,49,434	2·3
Provincial Rates ...	58,44,685	54·47	58,88,305	58·6	Local Rates ...	254	·003	18	...
Interest	18,708	·17	18,456	·18	Law and Justice ...	2,803	·03	3,180	·03
Law and Justice ...	5,687	·05	4,184	·04	Police	21,435	·25	22,104	·2
Police	3,77,772	3·5	3,69,408	3·7	Ports and Pilotage ...	6,933	·08	6,785	·06
Education	13,82,401	14·7	12,58,929	12·5	Education	21,58,574	25·15	24,95,478	23·03
Medical	79,212	·74	89,580	·89	Medical	5,31,985	6·2	6,92,357	6·4
Minor Departments ...	8,407	·08	8,861	·09	Minor Departments	69,701	·8	82,819	·8
Stationery	2,034	·02	412	·004	Superannuation ...	53,936	·6	53,045	·49
Miscellaneous ...	1,82,823	1·7	1,75,086	1·7	Stationery ...	25,451	·3	31,705	·29
Railways	1,05,669	·98	69,651	·7	Miscellaneous ..	20,439	·2	24,425	·23
Irrigation	20,691	·2	26,764	·3	Famine Relief ...	3,155	·04	387	·003
Civil Works	12,23,989	11·4	12,74,162	12·7	Minor Works ...	55,359	·6	14,629	·13
Loans	1,02,241	·95	.....	...	Civil Works	46,65,641	54·4	60,38,691	55·7
Deposits, etc. ...	11,75,920	11·0	8,63,843	8·6	Interests, etc. ...	12,062	·1	8,208	·08
					Repayment of Loans	14,744	·2	19,728	·18
					Deposits	7,08,366	8·3	10,88,850	10·05
Total ...	1,07,30,777	.....	1,00,47,964	...	Total ...	85,82,326	...	1,08,37,529 (a)	...

(a) This includes the expenditure of Rs. 27 under "Land Revenue" and Rs. 1,978 under "Refunds and Drawbacks" and Rs. 3,400 under "Railways."

INCOME.

Provincial rates.

239. The increase of Rs. 43,620 in the income from Provincial rates was the net outcome of an increase of slightly over Rs. 2 lakhs in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions set off against decrease in all three divisions of Eastern Bengal. Bad collections in this area, especially in the Dacca Division, were due to the failure of crops as well as the fall in the price of jute consequent on the outbreak of war.

Police Pounds.

240. The nett receipt from pounds diminished by Rs. 8,364 shows the result in contrast with last year of a decrease of over Rs. 14,139 in the Eastern Bengal divisions and an increase in the Burdwan and the Presidency Divisions. The Rajshahi Division shows the least satisfactory results with a decrease of over Rs. 6,000 in receipts, notwithstanding an increase of 23 pounds. The general explanation offered is the failure to realise arrears.

Education.

241. The decrease of Rs. 3,23,472 in the income under this head was due mainly to decrease in the Government grant for the construction of primary school buildings, and affects all districts with the exception of Mymensingh and Tippera.

Medical.

242. There was an increase of Rs. 10,368 under "Medical" due to swellings from Government and private contributions and endowments. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 31,782. Private contributions amounted to approximately half of the total receipts and represent an increase of Rs. 8,262 on last year.

Ferries.

243. There was a nett decrease of Rs. 9,863 in ferry receipts, the result of an increase of over Rs. 15,000 in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions and a decrease of over Rs. 25,000 in the Eastern Bengal Divisions. A decrease of over Rs. 7,000 in the Dacca Division is largely nominal, being due to the fact that the Narayanganj-Munshiganj ferry was leased out to the India

General Navigation and Railway Company for Rs. 2,600 per year for five years, the Company bearing all expenses, including the upkeep of a steam-launch, whereas in previous years it was leased out to private persons at rents varying from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000, the Board having to maintain a ferry steamer at their own cost. A decrease of over Rs. 6,000 in the Chittagong Division and of over Rs. 13,000 in the Rajshahi Division is attributed to the depression in the jute trade with consequent falling off in traffic and the failure of farmers to realize arrears on account of bad crops.

Loans.

244. No loans were raised by any District Board during the year under review.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

245. All the divisions showed increased expenditure on account of administration, the total increase being Rs. 17,976. Periodical increment of pay, grain compensation allowance, travelling allowances of members, and office expenses in connection with the distribution of quinine were the main factors to which the rise is attributed. The percentage of expenditure on administration charges ranged from 1·9 in Dinajpur to 5·1 in Nadia, as against a minimum of 1·6 and a maximum of 3·6 last year.

Education.

246. By far the greater part of the increase of Rs. 3,36,000 in the Board Educational charges was again due to increased expenditure under the sub-heads "Maintenance and Management of Primary Schools" and "Grants-in-aid," and was met out of the allotments received from the Imperial grants for Primary education. These allotments were spent mainly on the construction and equipment of Primary school buildings and in enhancing the pay of teachers. The number of Lower Primary schools maintained and aided by the Boards increased to 26,404, despite a falling off in the Burdwan Division due to bad health and damaged crops. Upper Primary schools continued to decline slowly in popularity, falling from 2,957 to 2,905. The proportion of expenditure on the maintenance and management of Primary schools to the total cost of education was 27·7 per cent., and on grants-in-aid, the bulk of which was conferred on Primary schools, 55·2 per cent. Expenditure on Middle Vernacular schools increased approximately from Rs. 78,500 to Rs. 80,000 and on scholarship from Rs. 38,803 to Rs. 39,174.

The progress in respect of Muhammadan education and the education of girls was maintained, and there was a rapid increase in the number of Muhammadan girls at Primary schools. In Dacca, for instance, the number of Muhammadan pupils in schools under the Board rose from 39,339 (including 8,477 girls) to 42,953 in the year undre report of whom no less than 10,087 were girls. The number of girls reading in the Lower Primary schools maintained and aided by District Boards was 151,724 as compared with 148,154 in the preceding year.

Special schools and industrial development.

247. Technical schools under the District Boards were not altogether a success. The Midnapore Technical School was abolished, while it is doubtful if the Burdwan Technical School, now refused further affiliation for its Sub-overseer classes, will survive much longer. Sub-overseer classes were closed in the Rajshahi Technical School. The Elliot Artizan School maintained by the District Board of Tippera showed poorer examination results in spite of a considerable increase in cost, and the Banamali Technical School at Pabna proved a heavy drain on the resources of the Board. The fitting of the newly constructed workshop for the Kashikishore Technical School at Mymensingh was almost finished. The Weaving School at Malda was provincialized, and the Mymensingh District Board consented to vest the control of their Weaving School at Tangail in the Education Department. The Board decided to construct a new school building, hostel and masters' quarters for this institution. Government sanctioned the opening of a Weaving School at Pabna as an experiment for one year. The Chittagong District Board aided the Weaving School at Cox's Bazar, which is now popularizing the fly-shuttle loom among the local Magh weavers. The Rangpur District Board paid Rs. 4,100 to the Bayley-Gobindalal Technical School. Considerable enterprise was again shown by District Boards in the grant of scholarships to industrial and special schools outside the district, such as the Serampore Weaving School, the Deaf and Dumb School, Calcutta,

and other institutions. The silk industry of Midnapore continued to benefit from the teaching of the Sericultural Nursery at Sabong, while the example set by this institution in vegetable gardening is being followed by neighbouring cultivators.

Medical.

248. The total increase under this head amounted to Rs. 1,60,372, of which Rs. 1,31,527 was on account of medical charges, and Rs. 28,845 on account of sanitation and vaccination. All divisions shared in the increase. The number of dispensaries aided or maintained by the Boards was 160 and 243, respectively, as against 165 and 205 last year. Sixteen dispensaries maintained by the District Board of Mymensingh were made over to managing committees receiving annual grants from the Board. Twelve additional dispensaries were made a charge on the District Boards of the Burdwan Division. Three new dispensaries were opened in the Nadia district. The Dacca District Board incurred increased expenditure of over Rs. 31,000 in connection with new dispensary buildings and in improvements to old. Two new dispensaries were opened in Bakarganj and a grant of Rs. 6,000 made by the Board to the Begum Hospital at Patuakhali. Increased charges of over Rs. 9,000 were incurred by the Chittagong District Board in establishing a new dispensary and enhancing grants-in-aid. Temporary dispensaries for the treatment of malarial fever and cholera epidemics were again maintained in Burdwan and Birbhum, private charity enabling one of those in Burdwan to be maintained throughout the year. A floating dispensary worked in Burdwan. Special arrangements for medical attendance at markets were made in the districts of Mymensingh and Bakarganj. Liberal use was made by District Boards of supernumerary and temporary doctors sent out to villages to cope with epidemics. Contributions were again made by certain District Boards to the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli, and scholarships were given to students from some of the districts at the Campbell Medical School in Calcutta and the Dacca Medical School.

The value of quinine sold during the year through vendors of all classes increased from Rs. 19,153 to Rs. 45,931 in the Presidency Division and from Rs. 12,658 to Rs. 47,574 in the Burdwan Division. While the greater part of the sales was still through post offices, the services of other classes of agents in closer touch with the village and the market place were also enlisted. Considerable sums were spent by various District Boards during the year on free distribution of quinine, notably Rs. 10,000 in Midnapore, and Rs. 5,000 in Rangpur. In some cases this free distribution was made through dispensaries ; in others by the Board's doctors direct to villagers in malaria-stricken areas.

Sanitation.

249. The expenditure on sanitation showed an increase of Rs. 30,501, which was shared by all divisions except Chittagong. The most useful work reported under this head was the maintenance of conservancy arrangements in small townships and at important rural fairs, often through the agency of Union Committees. Excavation of silted-up *khals* was undertaken by the Kishoreganj Local Board. For the rest expenditure was limited to petty schemes of jungle-clearing and ditch-filling in accordance with local needs. The District Board of 24-Parganas increased the number of Sanitary Inspectors from 1 to 3, while the District Board of Dinajpur created three appointments for Sanitary Inspectors, one for each subdivision, two of which were filled during the period under review. The latter Board continued to maintain a Health Officer at the Raiganj Bandar. The District Boards of Bankura, Mymensingh, Pabna and Malda appointed one Sanitary Inspector each during the year. No such appointment was created in the Chittagong Division, although sanitary committees were formed in all these districts. The post sanctioned for a Sanitary Inspector in Jessore remained vacant at the end of the year.

Veterinary charges.

250. The increase of Rs. 14,579 in the expenditure on veterinary purposes was shared by all divisions with the exception of Chittagong, where, however, an increase of Rs. 1,000 in contributions to Government for the pay of veterinary assistants resulted also in an increase of the full charges for veterinary service. Two appointments of veterinary assistant made last year by the Bakarganj District Board were filled during the year. Two veterinary assistants were appointed this year by the Boards of Pabna and

Murshidabad, and one each by those of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Burdwan and Bankura. The appointment of an attendant at the Mymensingh Veterinary Hospital led to a large increase in the number of in-patients. The District Board of Bakarganj acquired a site for a veterinary hospital in Barisal at a cost of over, Rs. 11,000, and decided to construct a small dispensary building with quarters for the veterinary assistant at each outlying sub-division. Scholarships tenable at the Belgachia Veterinary College were again awarded by some of the District Boards. Expenditure of over Rs. 2,000 was incurred by the Boards in the Dacca Division in the maintenance of bulls for breeding purposes.

Civil Works.

251. A total increase of Rs. 13,73,350 in the expenditure on Civil Works is attributable to fuller utilization by the Boards of the Public Works Cess transferred in 1913. The expenditure on "Communications—Original Works" increased from Rs. 14,65,895 to Rs. 20,38,005, and on "Communications—Repairs" from Rs. 19,97,571 to Rs. 23,58,000. The mileage of metalled, unmetalled and village roads at the close of the year was 1,880, 13,224 and 15,067, respectively, showing an increase of 36, 101 and 456 miles. Particular attention was paid to the prevention of encroachments on the roads by the District Boards of Birbhum and Hooghly. The percentage of lapses to allotments was reduced from 19·94 to 13·4 for the whole Province.

Water-supply.

252. Expenditure on water-supply, which last year rose by Rs. 1¾ lakh, showed a further increase of Rs. 2,25,392, this being made up of Rs. 2,18,836 on account of original works, and Rs. 6,556 on account of repairs. To this increase the Chittagong Division contributed close on a lakh in all, the Presidency, Dacca and Rajshahi Divisions approximately half a lakh each, while in the Burdwan Division an actual decrease in charges under this head is barely counterbalanced by expenditure in Burdwan on water-supply under the head "Sanitation." Works undertaken were, as before, the excavation, renewal and clearance of tanks and the sinking of wells. Except in a few districts, the preparation of water-supply registers and maps was completed. The water-supply schemes in Bankura and Midnapore were hampered by the unwillingness of villagers to contribute the one-third share of the cost, while in the districts of Murshidabad and the 24-Parganas proposals for the improvement of private tanks on certain conditions and for the excavation of new tanks on land made over to the Boards for the purpose did not prove a success owing to the reluctance of proprietors to enter into agreements with the Board. In the Chittagong Division, however, an increased number of applications for grants-in-aid by owners of private tanks was received. The District Boards were advised after the close of the year to make particular use of their resources during the year 1915-16 from the Public Works Cess on the excavation of tanks.

Drainage.

253. The expenditure on drainage showed an increase of Rs. 32,180, which was contributed mainly by the Presidency, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions. Out of the above total the Tippera Board spent about Rs. 25,000 and the Noakhali Board about Rs. 12,000 on the clearing of khals and drains, while the District Boards of Nadia and the 24-Parganas contributed Rs. 2,400 each for preliminary surveys in connection with the improvement of the rivers Bagerkhal and Jumna.

Arboriculture.

254. Expenditure on arboriculture decreased by Rs. 4,275. The District Boards of Dacca, Bakarganj and Malda spent nothing on the planting of trees. The Midnapore Board, though doing considerably less than last year, still incurred the highest expenditure (Rs. 4,000) and planted new trees along 27 miles of road. The District Board of Bankura began the working out of a ten-year plan submitted to the Director of Agriculture last year, and a sub-overseer was deputed by the District Board of Birbhum to Sibpur for training in arboriculture. Steady, if somewhat slow, progress in roadside tree-planting was made by several other districts.

Railways.

255. The construction of the Ahmadpur-Katwa Light Railway was begun by Messrs. McLeod & Co. during the year in Burdwan and Birbhum. In the Midnapore district the Bengal-Nagpur Railway obtained permission to undertake a detailed survey for a broad-gauge line from Belda to Contai, and the question of the construction of lines from Panskura to Tamluk and Chandrakona to Ghatal was under the consideration of Government.

The Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway in the 24-Parganas was extended a little over a mile by the removal of the terminus from Pattipukur to Belgachia, and the Railway Board sanctioned the construction in this district by Messrs. McLeod & Co. of a railway on the 2'-6" gauge from Kalighat to Fulta, a distance of 26 miles. In Khulna the concession granted by the Railway Board to Mr. N. C. Dutt for constructing the Khulna-Bagerhat Railway was withdrawn, and the question of granting it to another firm was under the consideration of Government. In Faridpur the proposal made by Messrs. Martin & Co. for the construction of a light railway between Pangsa and Boalmari was dropped as the Company declined to accept the guarantee of Rs. 32,000 offered by the Board. The District Board of Bakarganj had under consideration proposals made by the same Company for the construction of a light railway in the Bhola subdivision connecting Elsaghat with Lalmohan.

Closing balances.

256. The total closing balance of the District Boards (excluding deposits) decreased from Rs. 38,33,177 to Rs. 31,17,843. Of this closing balance Rs. 2 lakhs still consists of the Nawi and Sunti grants lying unspent with the District Board of the 24-Parganas. A further actual balance of over Rs. 3 lakhs was contributed by this Board, due partly to a large working balance retained in connection with a triennial programme, and excess of receipts over estimates on account of provincial rates. Mymensingh, Midnapore and Burdwan also returned actual balances of over Rs. 3 lakhs, and five other districts of over one lakh each. Besides the actual balance, cheques to the value of over a lakh remained uncashed in Mymensingh. On the other hand, in Bakarganj expenditure by the District Board almost up to budget allotments, coupled with a decrease on estimates in cess receipts during the year, reduced the Board's closing balance to Rs. 7,018 as against a budgeted balance of Rs. 16,507. As, however, the balance of debt heads alone (contractors' deposits, etc.) amounted on 31st March 1915 to Rs. 20,700, the District Board had in effect encroached on these to the extent of Rs. 13,682, or, in other words, closed with a debit balance of that amount.

Volunteers.

Total strength.

257. The total number of Volunteers and Reservists during the year 1914-15 was 8,396, of whom 8,059 qualified as efficients. Sanction was accorded during the year to the addition of two new companies to the 1st Battalion of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles and of two new head-quarter troops to the Calcutta Light Horse.

Formation of the Calcutta Volunteer Battery.

258. In connection with the European war, sanction was accorded by the Government of India to the formation of a Volunteer Mobile Battery of Artillery of six 15-pr. B. L. guns for service overseas and the establishment was recruited from the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers and Calcutta Port Defence Volunteers. The Government of India also approved of this new Battery being designated the "Calcutta Volunteer Battery."

Formation of the Calcutta Scottish Volunteers.

259. The formation of a Scottish (Kilted) Battalion of Volunteers to be designated "Calcutta Scottish Volunteers" was also sanctioned by the Government of India during the year under review.

Marine.

(1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, 1914-15.
(2) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Chittagong, 1914-15.
(3) Annual Report on Shipping Offices, 1914-15.
(4) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta, 1914.
(5) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments, 1914-15.
(6) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission, 1914-15.
(7) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, 1914-15.
(8) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge, 1914-15.
(9) Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, 1914-15.
(10) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission, 1914-15.

PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service.

260. There were 53 pilots and 13 leadsmen apprentices in the service. Two branch pilots retired and 1 died during the year under report. One first mate leadsman resigned and 1 leadsman apprentice was recruited from England.

261. Pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,14,601 against Rs. 14,63,822 and Rs. 15,33,673 in the two preceding years. **Pilotage receipts.**

262. The number of vessels entering and leaving the port was 1,431 and 1,451 representing gross tonnage of 6,006,581 and 6,099,433 against 1,649 and 1,659 vessels representing gross tonnage of 6,926,817 and 6,961,807, respectively, in the previous year. The number of inward and outward vessels drawing over 21 feet was 401 and 827 against 386 and 995 vessels, respectively, in the preceding year. **Arrival and departure of vessels.**

263. There were 24 groundings against 20 and 4 collisions against 2 in the previous year. Of the cases of groundings 9 were accidental, 3 were of slight nature, 1 was due to alteration of channel and in 7 cases the pilot was not to blame. In the remaining cases 1 grounding was due to carelessness to negligence and 2 to errors of judgment on the part of the pilot. Two of the cases of collisions were accidental; in the remaining 2 the pilot was not to blame. **Casualties to vessels.**

Seven special and 3 Departmental Courts of Enquiry were held during the year. No Marine Court of Enquiry under Act XII of 1859 (The Calcutta Pilots Act, 1859) was held.

264. Thirty-five out of 93 candidates passed the examinations for Certificates of Competency as Master, Mate, Engineer or Engine-driver of seagoing ships, and 177 out of 604 candidates passed the examinations for Inland Certificates as First or Second Class Master, *Serang*, Engineer or Engine-driver. **Examinations.**

265. The scheme for the lighting of the river Hooghly between Mud Point and Saugor for the purpose of navigation by night, which was sanctioned last year, was completed during the year and the restriction against night navigation in that stretch of the river was withdrawn. For the present only outward bound vessels are permitted to use the lighted channels. When the war is over the permission will be extended to inward bound vessels. **Night navigation.**

PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

266. The number of vessels that entered and left the port was 714 inclusive of 420 inland steamers and 705 inclusive of 415 inland steamers representing a gross tonnage of 618,622 and 617,855 as compared with 753 vessels, including 378 inland steamers and 742 vessels including 378 inland steamer representing gross tonnage of 797,332 and 792,489, respectively, in the preceding year. **Arrival and departure of vessels.**

267. There were two groundings and one vessel was totally lost. **Casualties to vessels.**

268. Out of 126 candidates 57 passed the examinations for Inland Certificates of Competency as First or Second Class Master, *Serang* or Engine-driver. **Examinations.**

SHIPPING OFFICES AT CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE.

269. The receipts of the Shipping Offices amounted to Rs. 1,04,854 and the expenditure to Rs. 61,509 against Rs. 1,23,047 and Rs. 69,875, respectively, in the previous year. **Finance.**

270. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was :— **Seamen shipped and discharged.**

Articles of agreement.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase.	Decrease.
Shipped—				
European ...	832	1,170	338	...
Indian ...	47,315	43,790	..	3,525
Discharged—				
European ...	1,018	1,427	409	...
Indian ...	43,536	38,368	...	5,168

The number of Anglo-Indians shipped on European and Indian articles was 81 and 475 against 76 and 484, respectively, in the preceding year.

271. Sixty-five seamen were repatriated during the year against 98 in 1912-13. **Repatriation of seamen.**

CHITTAGONG SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance. 272. The receipts of the Chittagong Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 834 and the expenditure to Rs. 822 against Rs. 905 and Rs. 756, respectively, in the previous year.

Seamen shipped and discharged. 273. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 211 and 619 against 197 and 644, respectively, in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Inspection of vessels. 274. The number of inward and outward bound vessels inspected by the Health Officer was 492 and 668 against 697 and 748, respectively, in 1913.

The numbers of crews and passengers passed or rejected were :—

		Passed.	Rejected.
Outward bound vessels ..	Crew ...	51,275	98
	Passengers ..	16,439	61
Inward bound vessels ...	Crew ...	34,762	...
	Passengers ...	16,130	...

Health of seamen. 275. European seamen admitted into hospitals were 635, of whom 13 died against 647 admissions and 6 deaths in 1913. There were 76 cases of venereal diseases against 106 in the past year. The number of deaths at sea was 3 against 8 in 1913.

The number of deaths among Asiatic seamen was 188 or 7·27 as compared with 172 or 6·65 per mille in 1913. Sixty-six deaths were from cholera and 49 from drowning.

Disinfection of vessels. 276. Three cases of small-pox, 4 cases of chicken-pox and 9 cases of measles were reported to have occurred on sea-going vessels. In the former cases the patients were removed to the Campbell Hospital and the crew vaccinated. Two cases of cholera were also removed from sea-going vessels. The vessels affected were disinfected.

Revised and consolidated rules were issued under the Indian Ports Act 1908, for the guidance of Masters of vessels and Port Health Officers for preventing the spread of infectious diseases by means of ships entering or leaving the ports of Bengal.

AGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS.

Finance. 277. The total receipts of the agency were Rs. 4,10,133 and the expenditure Rs. 3,82,713.

Tonnage handled. 278. The tonnage dealt with was—

Packages	...	334,225 (including 31,399 fire-bricks).
Tons	...	27,624

The value of the freight bills passed by the Agency was Rs. 3,47,216.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Inspections and observations. 279. The Inspectors of the Department made 9,101 observations of smoke emission against 6,119 in the previous year. They inspected 5,682 factories against 4,269 in 1913-14, imparting instruction to the stokers and testing fuel and appliances.

The average emission of smoke of greatest density per hour was further reduced during the year from 1·74 to 1·66.

Experience has shown it to be necessary to amend the Act in order to deal suitably with the nuisance caused by ocean-going steamers prior to leaving moorings, by the chimneys of clubs and hotels, by lime kilns constructed before the Act came into force and by persons manufacturing coke in open fires. A Bill to amend the Smoke-nuisances Act is now before the Bengal Legislative Council.

Forty-one statutory warnings were served by the Commission with good results. Prosecutions were instituted in 38 cases, resulting in conviction in all except 2 cases of coke-making which had to be withdrawn as the offenders could not be found.

Certificates of competency issued to stokers who passed the requisite examinations during the year, were 29 against 3 in the preceding year.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

280. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust was Rs. 1,44,50,349 and the expenditure Rs. 1,55,38,840. The deficit of Rs. 10,88,491 was due to loss of traffic arising out of the war. In order to make good the loss in revenue the Commissioners were authorised to levy, as a temporary measure from the 1st February 1915, additional charges on goods (excluding coal and pig iron) and on the shipping of the port. **Income and expenditure.**

281. The Commissioners were authorised to raise a debenture loan of one crore of rupees bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum repayable in 60 years for expenditure on Capital Works. The expenditure on Capital account during the year amounted to Rs. 86,86,613. **Capital expenditure.**

282. The following were the more important works in progress : — **Important works.**

Further extension of Calcutta jetties, No. 9 Jetty berth and transit shed.

Double-storeyed warehouse for inland vessels traffic at Jagannath Ghat.

Removal and reconstruction of Saugor Lighthouse.

Provision of 100 additional covered goods wagons.

New general berth No. 29 with double-storeyed transit shed in Dock No. 2.

New four-storeyed warehouse for sale of teas (rail-borne) and general merchandise.

Extension of Electric Power House.

Carrying the Port Trust Railway lines by means of a subway under the Calcutta approach road to the Howrah Bridge.

Sanction was also given to the construction of five new riverside berths at Garden Reach, as part of the Calcutta Port Improvement Scheme, recommended by the Port Facilities Enquiry Committee.

283. The capital debt of the Trust at the end of the year stood at Rs. 11,44,39,855 against which the Commissioners hold properties valued at Rs. 13,05,11,586. The amount of Sinking Fund was Rs. 15,28,066. **Capital debt.**

284. The following table shows in detail the income and expenditure of the Trust during the year with those of the previous year :— **Financial result.**

	1914-15.				1913-14.				Difference between 1914-15 and 1913-14.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett Revenue.	Nett deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Nett Revenue.	Nett deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	67,690	9,57,149	...	8,89,459	20,157	10,28,292	...	10,08,135	1,18,676	...
II.—Jetties	20,37,174	10,44,852	9,92,322	...	24,51 126	12,42,595	12,08,531	...	...	2,16,209
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	2,22,258	1,18,968	1,03,290	...	2,25,966	1,27,709	98,277	...	5,013	...
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	4,26,287	39,683	3,86,604	...	4,37,546	47,076	3,90,470	...	...	3,866
V.—Inland Vessels Wharves	4,26,979	1,99,627	2,27,352	...	5,22,444	2,12,670	3,09,774	...	...	82,422
VI.—Rentable land and building.	6.89,172	2,04,385	4,84,787	...	6,71,211	2,25,642	4,45,569	...	39,218	...
VII.—Port	5,34,994	6,33,675	...	98,681	5,88,688	6,22,298	...	33,610	...	65,071
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	6,83,734	8,41,097	...	1,57,363	8,07,033	7,60,260	6,773	...	...	2,04,136
IX.—Railway	13,90,365	13,91,947	...	1,582	15,42,971	14,03,803	1.39,168	...	...	1.40,759
X.—Wet Docks	45,05,515	33,20,528	11,84,987	...	45,24.501	33,99,723	11,24,778	...	60,209	...
XI.—Dry Docks	2,71,218	75,813	1,95,405	...	2,31,529	77,162	1,54,367	...	41,038	...
XII.—Ferry Service	3,34,987	3,61,186	23,801	...	3,78,774	3,60,477	18,297	...	5,504	...
XIII.—River dues	20,98,123	...	20,98,123	...	24,65,092	...	24,65,092	...	...	3,66,690
XIV.—Special war surcharges	5,11,711	...	5,11,711	...	...	...	...	...	5,11,711	...
Sale of unserviceable materials	17,301	...	17,301	...	49,838	...	49,838	...	...	32,537
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	24,751	...	24,751	...	25,585	...	25.585	...		834
Interest on Revenue Reserve ...	77,678	...	77.678	...	1,28,066	...	1,28,066	...	...	50,388
Amount payable by Capital to Revenue Account of haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to Capital.	80,412	...	80,412	...	57,888	...	57,888	...	22,524	...
Interest on bank balance ...	...	Cr. 2.161	...	Cr. 2,161	...	47,357	...	47.357	49,518	...
Interest and sinking fund charges.	...	62,46.690	...	62,46,690	...	60,05,762	...	60,05,762	...	2,40.928
Contribution to Depreciation fund.	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000	..	1,00,000	...	...
Reconstruction of Jetty at 60 ft. river entrance.	...	5,401	...	5,401	...	625	...	625	...	4,776
Total ...	1,44,50,349	1,55,38,840	64,08,524	74,97,015	1,51,28,435	1,56,61,451	66,62.473	71,95,489	8,53,411	14,08,886

Pension to Vice-Chairmen.

285. The Calcutta Port Act, 1890, was amended to provide for the grant of pension on retirement to Vice-Chairmen who were not Government servants previous to their appointment to the Trust.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and charges.

286. The income of the Bridge was Rs. 1,77,275 and the expenditure Rs. 2,17,280 against Rs. 1,98,748 and Rs. 2,21,850, respectively, in the preceding year, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 40,005. The receipts from the terminal payable on the Howrah traffic of the East Indian Railway amounted to Rs. 1,57,348 against Rs. 1,72,886 in 1913-14. The decrease is due to the falling off in railway traffic on account of the war.

The Bridge was opened on 297 occasions, 59 by day and 238 at night; 3,372 vessels passed through the Howrah Bridge against 3,607 vessels in the past year.

CHITTAGONG PORT TRUST.

Finance.

287. The ordinary receipts of the Port Fund during 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 1,98,437 as against Rs. 2,35,758 of the preceding year. The decrease is due partly to the dislocation of the trade caused by the war and partly to the state of the shoals in the river Karnafuli. A grant of Rs. 1,50,000 was given by Government for the improvement of the Port.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,90,550 as against Rs. 3,02,456 in the preceding year. The increase is mainly due to the expenditure of Rs. 93,249 under "Port" on account of maintenance of revetment, cost of repairs to buoys and chains, share of fees paid to Sir F. Spring, construction of two steel pontoons and grabs and a wooden barge, and cost of land for a coal depôt.

The value of the Port Commissioners' properties, including lighthouses, land works (finished and in progress), etc., was estimated on 31st March 1915 to be Rs. 34,95,931 and the liabilities without the loans taken from Government for revetment work amounted to Rs. 1,30,408.

Value of Trade.

288. The total value of sea-borne trade, both foreign and coasting, imports and exports, amounted to Rs. 740·66 lakhs as against Rs. 1,026·50 lakhs in the preceding year.

Health of the Port.

289. The health of the port was good.

The new Chittagong Port Act, 1914.

290. The Chittagong Port Commissioners Act, 1887, was repealed by a new Chittagong Port Act, 1914, which was brought into force on the 1st July 1914. Some of the regular periodic services of coasting and inland steamers calling at Chittagong were, however, exempted for the present from the operation of section 43 of the new Act which provides for the compulsory use of the jetties, etc., provided by the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, or the Assam-Bengal Railway.

War surcharges.

291. Sanction was given to the proposal of the Commissioners to raise the river dues from 2 to 4 annas per ton and to levy a surcharge of 25 per cent. on account of hire of moorings and hauling in and out of moorings as a temporary measure from 1st April 1915 to meet the loss of revenue due to decrease of traffic owing to the war.

BENGAL STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

Amendment of the Act.

292. The Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime Movers Act, 1879, was amended in order to remove certain defects in the Act.

Inspections.

293. The total number of boilers on the registers for Calcutta and other places within the jurisdiction of the Commission was 5,568 against 5,351 in the previous year.

The number of boilers inspected and certified was 5,030 (including 35 boilers in Calcutta and 371 in the *mufassal* twice presented for examination) against 4,279 in 1913-14. One hundred and sixty-six boilers in Calcutta and

the *mufassal* were struck off the registers as not having been presented for examination for five years or being removed out of jurisdiction or condemned. The remaining 778 boilers were not presented for inspection, being temporarily out of use or under repairs.

WAR SECTION.

294. Several matters in connection with war were dealt with confidentially in the War Section of the Marine Department. War.

CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report on the Agricultural Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th June 1915.]

Administration.

295. The Second Deputy Director, after 3 months' training at Pusa, joined at Dacca on the 29th January 1915, and was placed in charge of the farms (with the exception of Kalimpong Farm) and of demonstration work in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions, the First Deputy Director being put in charge of the demonstration work and farms in the two divisions of West Bengal, together with the farm at Kalimpong. The development of the Department demands a further increase in the superior controlling staff and the appointment of a Third Deputy Director of Agriculture; but like other new schemes this will have to wait till the financial situation improves. The formation of a regular cadre for the Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural services has been sanctioned, but experience has established the necessity of revising the scheme, and the lines on which the revision should be effected are now under consideration.

Agricultural Education.

296. Only 5 students from Bengal appeared at the Diploma Examination of the Sabour Agricultural College held in March 1915, 4 of whom were successful. Two of these have secured appointments under the Government of Bihar and Orissa and another has been given a temporary appointment in this Province. The number of Bengal students in the first, second and third year classes of the College are 8, 3 and 2, respectively. The scheme for giving a short course of practical training in scientific agriculture on the Dacca Farm to the sons of landholders noticed in the last year's report, has met with the approval of the Eastern Bengal Landholders' Association, but has not evoked much interest elsewhere. This scheme which is now being considered in fuller detail will also have to wait for better times. Rules relating to the duties of fieldmen-demonstrators were issued during the year under report. These rules provide that a demonstrator will undergo training on an agricultural farm for a year. Some teachers of Guru-training and Circle schools have received training in the subject of "Nature study" at the Dacca Training College.

Research and experiments.

297. The Fibre Expert concentrated his attention on the important question of jute seed selection. At the beginning of the present season he had enough seed of his "pure-line culture" to sow about 1,000 acres, but the demand for improved seed has not been as much as was expected. Comparison is being made in many places, between Mr. Finlow's selected seed and the *raiyats'* seed. It will be necessary to establish a marked superiority of the "pure-line culture" seed over the seed used by the *raiyats*, before a keen demand can be expected. Mr. Finlow also continued his investigations into the manuring of jute. Particular attention was given to the acid red soils of the Dacca Farm and it has been definitely proved that lime and bonemeal together with cowdung produce a marked increase not only in the outturn of jute but also of a crop of mustard following it. During this season the Fibre Expert has also applied bonemeal and lime to the *raiyats'* fields and the successful results obtained there are likely to carry more conviction with the public than results obtained in the farms. The Agricultural Chemist has been carrying on experiments with certain varieties of sugarcane on the Dacca Farm and some encouraging results have been obtained. With a view to surveying the canes grown in this Province, 14 varieties were tried last year at the Dacca Farm. This year 44 other varieties from different districts have been added to the number. Steps have also been taken to encourage the re-establishment of the industry of producing sugar from the date-palm. Mr. Annett, who has made a special study of the subject, made a tour of the central districts of the Presidency in order to examine the situation and to advise District Officers and persons interested in the industry as to the action to be taken for increasing the

outturn of date-sugar. A small apparatus is being imported from America for the production of maple-sugar. This plant will deal rapidly with the juice of a large number of date trees. The Economic Botanist completed the survey of the transplanted *aman* paddy of East Bengal and began testing several kinds on a practical scale. One of the varieties was tried both on the Dacca Farm and in the neighbouring cultivators' fields, and very hopeful results followed. Attempts to devise some means of combating the *ufra* disease of rice were continued in the Noakhali and the Dacca districts, but no definite results have been obtained.

Sericulture.

298. During the year under report the Director of Agriculture submitted a revised scheme for saving the silk industry in Bengal. The original scheme was to supply all the seed-cocoons necessary for the Province from Government nurseries with a view to eliminate disease, and it was estimated that 19 central Government nurseries, with seven rearing-houses in each, would be required for the purpose. In pursuance of the scheme, 7 such central nurseries have already been established. A census of mulberry fields which was taken during the year, however, showed that 22 central nurseries would be required to meet the needs of the whole Province. In consideration of the heavy cost of the scheme and in view of the fact that the Governments of France, Italy, Japan and China do not supply the entire seed required, but that the principal quantity is supplied in those countries through professional rearers working under Government supervision, the Director of Agricultural has proposed in his revised scheme that only one-third of the total demand should be reared in Government nurseries and that the remainder should be reared by selected professional rearers under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. The whole question of the future policy in aiding the silk industry is held in abeyance pending the result of the enquiries now being conducted by Mr. H. M. Lefroy, the Imperial Silk Specialist.

The hybridising experiments, which were being carried on by M. Grangeon before he left for military duty in France, are being continued by Mr. P. C. Chaudhury, Superintendent of the Berhampore Central Nursery. These experiments as well as those conducted by Miss Cleghorn are reported to give promise of successful results.

Fisheries.

299. Mr. Southwell's work during the past four years has mainly been confined to a comprehensive survey of the fishery problems of the two provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and is now reaching a stage at which valuable results are likely to be obtained. The principal part of the work done hitherto has been in connection with carp and *hilsa*, and the main lines on which definite improvements are expected are—increasing the supply of fish by artificial cultivation, preserving the existing supply of fish by preventing practices which tend to diminish it, and improving the organisation of the fishery industry by introducing co-operation among fishermen and removing obstacles which hinder the industry. Mr. Southwell's investigation have brought to notice the unsatisfactory conditions under which fishermen carry on their industry and the extent to which the profits are absorbed by middlemen, to the detriment alike of the fishermen and of the public. Measures are being taken for establishing Co-operative Societies among fishermen, and though rapid progress cannot be expected, the scheme is one which affords prospects of beneficial results. The statistics of the import of fish into Calcutta showed a large decrease, which is probably due, in part, to greater consumption in the neighbourhood of the fisheries.

Agricultural Associations.

300. The Provincial Association held two meetings in the course of the year. The Burdwan and Presidency Divisional Associations each received a grant of Rs. 1,000 which they distributed among the different District Associations under them.

Miscellaneous.

301. The method adopted in the Rangpur Dairy Farm in order to attain its main object of improving the breed of indigenous cattle is to collect cows of different kinds from various parts of the Presidency and to keep a careful record of their milk yields with a view to multiplying the species which give the best yields. A number of the best indigenous cows which could be found in the Province was accordingly purchased. There are now 111 cows at the farm and in some cases satisfactory yields of milk have been recorded. Increasing use is being made of Co-operative Societies for furthering the use of

improved manures, implements and seeds. The fisheries and weaving departments are also being brought into touch with the Co-operative movement.

Juté Forecast.

302. The year under report is the fourth year in which the jute forecast has been based on a detailed census prepared by *panchayats* of the area under jute cultivation in each union. The experience which has been gained by the *panchayats* and by the officers engaged in checking the returns is believed to have assisted materially in the elimination of error as regards area and continued crop-cutting experiments have led to more accurate estimation of outturn. The jute forecasts now afford a substantially accurate estimate of the crop. The checking of the forecast imposes heavy labour on the staff of the Department at a time of the year when agricultural operations are at their busiest and the time spent on the forecast is therefore lost to purely agricultural work. Under the present financial conditions it is not practicable to increase the establishment.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for the year 1914-15; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for the year 1914-15. Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I.]

Character of the season.

303. The period for sowing the *bhadoi* crops was on the whole favourable. In March the rainfall was very slightly in defect, but in April and May there was good rain. In a few places the rainfall was a little too heavy for the growth of the young plants. A very dry June proved unfavourable to the growth of the standing crops, though not nearly to the same extent as the excessive rains of the previous June. The rainfall in July was slightly above normal. Owing, however, to the deficient rainfall in June, the jute semi-looper attacked the jute crop in the districts of Murshidabad, Jessore, Nadia and Khulna, and also to a smaller extent in other places. The rainfall in August and the first-half of September was adequate, and the standing crops recovered to a great extent from the drought in June. In October and November, however, very little rain fell, with the result that the *aman* paddy crop suffered a good deal considerably, especially on high lands. Rain in the latter part of December improved the situation to a considerable extent for the *rabi* crops, but came too late to produce any material effect on the *aman* paddy crop. In January and February the rainfall was only slightly below the average.

There was, therefore, on the whole a good *bhadoi* crop last season, but a poor *aman* crop and inferior *rabi* crop. The jute crop was good in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, chiefly because the crop was not waterlogged, as in the previous year. It was not, however, very good in certain parts of Eastern and Northern Bengal. The winter rice-crop was generally poor.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1914-15 of *Bhadoi*, *Aghani* and *Rabi* crops, as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year:—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.*	Area cultivated during 1913-14 in acres.*	Area cultivated during 1914-15 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year—	
				1913-14.	1914-15.
Bhadoi	9,821,400	8,883,700	9,314,600	77	82
Aghani { Winter rice.	16,406,000	14,539,600	15,084,300	92	72
Aghani { Sugarcane	262,000	218,300	233,400	86	82
Aghani { Other sugar crops.	129,000	60,100	56,700	...	...
Rabi	6,152,000	5,029,100	4,950,600	89	75
Total ...	32,770,400	28,730,800	29,639,600	...	...

* The figures under these columns have been revised since last year.

304. Sowings commenced at the normal time and under favourable conditions. The crops progressed favourably in April and May, in spite of occasional excessive rain in some places. They suffered from the drought in June, but recovered to a large extent afterwards from the rainfall in July, especially in the districts of Rangpur and Mymensingh. In the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions the rainfall for June, though below the average, was well distributed, and the crops did not suffer. In July the rainfall was generally above normal, except in Northern Bengal; but in August and September it was again under normal. The result was that the jute crop, although quite up to normal in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, was estimated at only 90 per cent. of the normal for the whole Province. In the previous year a considerable area in which the crop had been entirely destroyed by floods had to be eliminated for the purpose of estimating the outturn. The average outturn on the remaining area worked out to very much the same as the crop of the year under review. District officers have returned 78 per cent. of the normal for the other crops as compared with 74 per cent. of last year. *Bhadoi* crops.

305. The season was favourable for seed-beds and the sowing of broadcast paddy. But the rainfall was insufficient in August, and more so from the middle of September onwards, the consequence being that grain did not fill out properly, especially on high lands. The provincial outturn was reported by district officers to be 72 per cent. of the normal in place of the figure 92 per cent. returned last year. Winter rice.

306. The season under review was too dry for this crop especially from the month of October onwards and this want of rain was responsible for an outturn of 82 per cent. only as against 86 per cent. last year. Sugarcane.

307. These crops suffered in October, November and the first half of December, when scarcely any rain fell throughout the Province. Prospects improved towards the end of December and during January; but the rain came too late to produce a normal crop. The outturn was reported to be 75 per cent. of the normal as against 89 per cent. of last year. *Rabi*-crops.

308. The total outturn was reported at 29,835 bales as against 19,214 bales last year. The crop benefited from the deficiency of rain. Cotton.

309. The total area under different crops showed some increase. The cropped area was reported to be 29,639,600 acres against 28,730,800 acres returned for the previous year. Figures for the principal crops are given in the following table :— Area under cultivation.

Names of crops.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1913-14 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1914-15 in acres.
Rice	21,974,300	19,907,600	20,449,900
Other food-grains (including pulses and *marua*).	1,889,700	1,384,900	1,364,200
Jute	2,643,800	2,456,600	2,872,600
Oil-seeds	2,199,200	1,795,000	1,828,300
Tobacco	408,800	323,200	322,700
Sugarcane	262,000	218,300	233,400

310. The outstanding event of the year was the sudden fall which took place in the price of jute after the declaration of war on Germany. Last year the price obtained constituted a record. After the outbreak of war, however, prices for jute of inferior quality fell to as low as Rs. 2 per maund and occasionally even lower. This was largely due to difficulties of freight as well as to diminution of the demand. After the sinking of the *Emden* prices began to recover, and reached about half the average prices of last year. The prices of staple food-grains ruled a little higher than last year, although the price of rice has not been very greatly affected. The price of winter rice varied from Rs. 4-2 per maund at Burdwan to Rs. 6-4 per maund at Dacca, and that of autumn rice from Rs. 4 at Bankura and Darjeeling to Rs. 6 per maund at Dacca. Prices.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial.]

Development.

311. The following table shows the expansion of the movement during the year :—

	Societies.		Membership.		Working capital.	
	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.	Last year.	This year.
					Rs.	Rs.
Central Banks	33	38	4,601	4,920	32,49,243	40,88,613
Agricultural Societies	1,543	1,862	71,282	85,717	44,11,493	52,95,099
Non-agricultural Societies ...	78	84	14,317	16,340	12,74,222	16,13,382
Supervisional Unions	7	8	128	141	3,307	4,523
Total ...	1,661	1,992	90,328	107,118	89,38,265	1,10,01,617

As judged by figures the progress was less rapid than in the previous year, a feature which is sufficiently explained by the abnormal circumstances of the year, and by the fact that attention was largely concentrated on the removal of defects.

Central Banks.

312. The number of Central Banks has risen from 33 to 38, and their working capital has risen from 32 to 40 lakhs. Central Banks are progressing towards efficiency and the Directors as a rule take an intelligent interest in their work. Owing to the exceptional circumstances of the year the recovery of loans by Central Banks from Agricultural Societies did not come up to the standard of the previous year, but the Central Banks exercised caution in giving out loans.

Provincial Co-operative Bank.

313. The scheme for a Provincial Bank was further discussed by an influential Committee in February 1915 and the draft bye-laws were amended. In view of the financial situation it has not been thought desirable to attempt to inaugurate a Provincial Bank at this time, but the scheme is being further considered in the light of the recommendations of the Committee on Co-operation. The year's experience has emphasized the need for an apex bank for the purpose of financing Central Banks and maintaining a cash reserve.

Agricultural Societies.

314. The conditions have not been suitable for opening new Agricultural Societies during the year. Their number has increased from 1,543 to 1,862, of which 1,582 are affiliated to Central Banks. The most noticeable feature of the finance of these societies is the rapid increase in the percentage of the capital contributed by the Central Banks which indicates the confidence of the general public in the movement; but the position is not altogether satisfactory from a co-operative point of view. In view of the general indebtedness of the members and of the conditions of the year it is satisfactory that the members' deposits have not decreased. Greater attention is being paid to fixing the terms of loans on a consideration of the purpose for which they are taken. There is further evidence of the indirect benefits of co-operation in encouraging the settlement of disputes by arbitration and the desire for education.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

315. There has been a small increase in the number of Non-agricultural Societies. The co-operative standard of these societies is reported not to be high, but a satisfactory feature is the extent to which they attract deposits by members.

A Co-operative Society in Faridpur district took advantage of the rise in the price of sugar and started a sugar factory with satisfactory results,

and the Mymensingh Supply Society purchased bonemeal and potato seed for distribution among its members. There has been progress in combined action between the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments in introducing agricultural improvements which is looked upon as the most hopeful method of diffusing knowledge of the results obtained by the Agricultural Department.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling for the year 1914-15.]

316. Weather conditions were practically normal throughout the year. In addition to the ordinary routine work of the garden, several special pieces of work were undertaken. Considerable sections of the Wallich and Wight avenues were entirely renewed so as to prevent flooding in the rainy season. The large Palm House and the Orchid House were replanted; east of the landing stage a considerable section of the river bank, which had been badly eroded, has been strengthened; and the old landing bridge was replaced by a larger and stronger one. Steps were also taken towards the formation of an Economic Garden. **Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, General.**

317. About 5,500 plants were received and over 40,000 distributed. The distribution of the latter was conducted on the lines mentioned in last year's report. About 400 packets of seed were received and over double the number distributed. In addition, nearly 70 lbs. of seed of various species of trees and shrubs were sent to the new Imperial Capital at Delhi. **Plant and seed distribution.**

318. Field work during the year principally consisted of exploration in the Nellore district in Madras, and, as a result, some 5,000 sheets of specimens were received. Affairs in Europe have interfered with the distribution of duplicates to that Continent, but over 2,000 specimens have been distributed to herbaria elsewhere. **Field work Herbarium Library.**

319. No part of the Garden Annals appeared during the year, but three contributions to that publication are under preparation, viz., a continuation of Mr. Beccari's work on the Palms, a monograph of the genus Dioscorea by Mr. I. H. Burkill, and an account of the Indian Euphrobias by the Superintendent. **Publications.**

320. Two hundred and nineteen species and varieties of trees and shrubs were planted out. Nearly 11,000 plants, about 3,000 bulbs and tubes, and over 3,400 packets of seed were distributed. Several pounds of seed of *Dendrocalamus Hamiltoni*, a bamboo, were supplied to the United States, Agricultural Department, for planting on the landslide of the Culebra Cut of the Panama Canals. **Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.**

321. The work of these gardens followed the usual lines of horticultural operations during the year. **Calcutta Gardens.**

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1914-15.]

322. During the year under report the weather conditions on the Mungpoo Plantation were practically normal, the rainfall being 117·59 inches against 105·50 inches in 1913-14, while on the Munsong Plantation the rainfall was 108 inches as compared with 92·62 in the preceding year. **General.**

323. The total area under Cinchona on both the plantations increased from 2,246 acres in 1913-14 to 2,552 acres in 1914-15. The total number of plants distributed over the whole area was estimated at 2,688,000 as compared with 2,163,603 in the previous year. During the year the harvest yielded 680,375 lbs. of dry bark, costing Rs. 85,047 and of the market value of Rs. 2,10,843. **Plantations.**

324. The total quantity of bark worked at in the Quinine Factory was 764,722 lbs. against 959,247 in the preceding year, and the quantity of quinine sulphate produced amounted to 34,650 lbs. or 16,912 lbs. less than the previous year's outturn. This reduction was deliberate as, in view **Outturn.**

of the large reserves, there was no need to harvest more bark than sufficed to meet the current demand. Other products were 5,307 lbs. of cinchona febrifuge, 876 lbs. quinoidine and 807 lbs. residual alkaloids. The quinine reserve at the close of the year was over 163,000 lbs. against 162,964 lbs. in the preceding year, and the total stock in balance was of the value of Rs. 26,36,940.

Forests.

[Forest Administration Report for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

325. There was only a small change in the actual areas under the different classes of forest due to the inclusion of 220 acres in the Rehti Forest Reserve in Jalpaiguri. As noticed in the last year's report, the work of demarcation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts continues to be slow. This is attributed to the natural difficulties of the work and to the difficulties in providing labour. No new working plans were sanctioned during the year.

Communications and Buildings.

326. Some progress has been made in the improvement of communications and buildings. Thirteen miles of cart road, 32 miles of bridle path and 18 miles of foot-path were constructed during the year. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 38,987 against Rs. 42,132 in the previous year. The reconstruction of the Divisional Forest Officer's quarters and the construction of a new office at Buxa Duar were completed during the year. The construction of four rest-houses in Kurseong, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Chittagong was also finished during the year. The total expenditure on new buildings and repairs amounted to Rs. 39,254 and Rs. 22,789, respectively, against Rs. 31,756 and Rs. 20,297 in the previous year.

Forest offences.

327. There was a considerable decrease in the total number of forest offences reported during the year, the number being 1,835 against 2,171 in the previous year.

Protection from fires.

328. The area in which fire protection was attempted during the year comprised 459,987 acres and the percentage of successful protection was over 98. In the hill forests the fire season was longer than usual owing to absence of rain in the winter, but in the plain forests the season was a favourable one. The area burnt over amounted to 6,143 acres against 5,764 acres in the previous year. In the Buxa Division the fires have been more numerous and destructive than in the previous year. The causes of the great majority of the fires were not ascertained, and, unless the causes are known, it is difficult to decide the steps to be taken for their prevention.

Protection from cattle.

329. There was no change during the year in the area open to grazing. The measures taken by the Forest Department to prevent injury to forests by cattle are fencing, reduction in the number of grazing permits, control of grazing by the use of metal discs in Jalpaiguri and Buxa Forest Divisions, establishment of pounds and the detection and punishment of illicit grazing. The disc system for distinguishing cattle grazed under permit continues to give satisfactory control in Jalpaiguri and Buxa. Illicit grazing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts is reported to have been almost entirely checked. The number of cattle reported as impounded during the year was 2,707 against 4,087 in 1913-14, while the average for the 3 years ending 30th June 1914 was 2,772. The decrease was in the Tista, Kurseong and Jalpaiguri Divisions.

Exploitation.

330. Negotiations for an agreement with Messrs. Burn and Company for the extraction of bamboos from one of the Chittagong Hill Tracts reserved forests were completed during the year, but no further progress in executing the agreement was made owing to the war. During the year concessions were granted to Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Company of Calcutta for the collection of nettle fibre from certain plants in the reserved forests of the Darjeeling district. Minor forest produce continued to be disposed of generally under permits at fixed rates, but long pepper in Tista and *sun* grass in Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts were extracted under monopoly agreements. A sample of *Alpinia-Allughas* was tested at the Titaghur

Paper Mills. It yielded a long strong fibre, but it was found unsuitable for making white paper as it bleaches badly. Mr. Raitt, the Cellulose Fibre Expert at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, however, considers that it would be good for textilose. The last season's Khedda operations conducted by the Maharaja of Cooch Behar under agreements resulted in the capture of 47 elephants. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts Osi Meah Choudhury captured 15 elephants.

Mortality caused by wild animals.

331. The number of persons reported to have been killed by tigers in the Sundarbans was 79 against 81 in the previous year and the number of tigers killed during the year was 39.

General.

332. Rules to regulate hunting, shooting and fishing within the reserved and protected forests in Bengal were published during the year. The question of arranging locally for the training of Forest Rangers is under the consideration of this Government and of the Government of India. It is proposed to enlarge the Kurseong Forest School where students for Bengal and Assam will be trained. The Forest Zoologist continued his investigations into insect attacks in Jalpaiguri and Buxa forests. His investigations have increased the stock of information regarding insect-pests affecting *sâl*, and have also led to the discovery of a parasitic root fungus which is very widely distributed throughout the *sâl* forests in the plains.

Financial results.

333. During the year under review the total revenue fell from Rs. 16,37,469 in 1913-14 to Rs. 11,99,702, while the expenditure increased from Rs. 6,45,035 to Rs. 6,72,004, and the surplus amounted to Rs. 5,27,698 against Rs. 9,92,434 in the preceding year. The large decrease in receipts is due to shortage in sales of timber in the Sundarbans, Jalpaiguri and Buxa Forest Divisions on account of bad market conditions and low prices obtained for part of the timber that was sold.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Jute.

334. The area under jute in this Presidency increased from 2,456,642 acres with an outturn of 739,939 bales in 1913 to 2,872,604 acres with an outturn of 9,308,018 bales in the year 1914. Sixty-seven jute mills were at work during the year as against 64 in 1913, employing daily on an average 236,294 operatives, an increase of 19,917. The numbers of looms and spindles working in these mills were 37,541 and 789,236, respectively, as against 35,803 and 738,977 in 1913. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 8,57,25,500 and £3,507,000 and the paid-up capital Rs. 7,98,88,800 and £2,760,536.

Cotton.

335. Fifteen cotton mills were at work during 1914, giving daily employment to 10,349 persons, against 13 mills and 10,658 persons in 1913. The numbers of looms and spindles were 2,792 and 343,750, respectively. The nominal capital employed was Rs. 1,15,20,000 and £200,000.

Tea.

336. The area under tea in 1914 was 159,054 acres and the quantity of the tea manufactured, chiefly black, was 75,373,201 lbs. compared with 80,108,705 lbs. in 1913. There were 297 plantations employing a daily average of 100,598 permanent and 29,840 temporary hands.

Coal.

337. The number of coal mines worked during 1914 was 178, being 6 less than in the previous year. The total output was 4,424,540 tons against 4,649,852 tons raised in 1913. The decrease is to be ascribed to a falling off in the demand for industrial purposes owing to the war. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines rose from 38,553 to 38,879. There was a notable advance in the use of electricity in the mines.

Iron.

338. In the Burdwan district 1,204 tons of iron-ore valued at £171 were produced during the calendar year 1914, as compared with 8,926 tons valued at £1,278 in 1913. The ore is worked by the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Limited, of Kulti. The decrease in the output is due to the Ramnagore Colliery areas having been under water for part of the year.

Saltpetre and salt.

339. The quantity of refined saltpetre produced in the three licensed saltpetre refineries in the Presidency during the year was 1,824 maunds

against 5,351 maunds in the previous year. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refinement of saltpetre was 24 maunds only as compared with 742 maunds in 1913-14.

Paper. 340. In 1914 there were three paper mills at work in this Presidency, producing 53,845,455 lbs. of paper valued at Rs. 68,08,396.

Silk. 341. There was only one silk factory working during the year 1914, which employed 73 hands.

Sugar. 342. The acreage under sugar crops increased from 276,600 to 290,100 in 1914-15. As in the previous year, the only regular sugar factory at work in the Province was in the 24-Parganas. 755 hands were employed in this factory.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Board of Revenue's Land Revenue Administration Report for 1914-1915.]

Burdwan. 343. Coal mining and other large industries in the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district were not seriously affected by the war in Europe, but owing to the difficulty in getting freight at Calcutta a large amount of coal had to be railed to Bombay and Karachi. With the exception of the cotton ginning factory at Salkea, all other mills and factories in Howrah worked during the year. Almost all the jute presses in the district remained closed at the beginning of the war, but are now in full swing. The iron and steel foundries worked at a disadvantage owing to the non-receipt of imports from Europe.

Presidency. 344. There are numerous mills and factories in the Sadar and Barrackpore subdivisions of the 24-Parganas, most of these being managed by Europeans. In the Sadar subdivision there are a number of rice mills under Indian management. Various small industries are also carried on in the different parts of the same district. Handloom weaving is the principal industry in the Kushtia subdivision in Nadia, and gives profitable employment to a large number of Muhammadans. The Mohini Mills at Kushtia continued to flourish. In the Chuadanga Subdivision the hide business has suffered greatly owing to the war. On the other hand, the sugar industry shows signs of revival and many factories for the production of *gur* (molasses) which had closed for years, have begun to work again. In Murshidabad the decline in the silk trade reported in previous years has been greatly accelerated by the war, as export of silk to Europe has now entirely ceased. Steel trunks continue to be manufactured at Jiaganj and the trade in them is expanding. The sugar industry in Jessore received an impetus on account of the war.

Dacca. 345. In Dacca, conch shells, gold and silver ornaments, steel-trunks and cash-boxes, articles made of horn and cloths are manufactured and exported to other districts. In Faridpur greater activity was noticeable in manufacturing molasses from date palm juice owing to the high price of sugar due to the war.

Chittagong. 346. In Chittagong the Shalimar Works of Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co., and the ginning factory of Messrs. Jamal Brothers were fully employed. The ginning mill of the Kunda family remained almost closed owing to the war and the consequent difficulty in exporting cotton due to the dislocation of shipping. The weaving school at Cox's Bazar is becoming popular with the local *Mughs*, for whose benefit it was started, and the accommodation has been increased.

Rajshahi. 347. In the district of Rajshahi, a large rice mill was opened during the year on the outskirts of the town of Rampur-Boalia. In the town of Bogra, a flour mill has been started by a Bengali firm; and at Hilli in that district, a mill for husking paddy has been established by the brother of Raja Pramada Nath Roy of Dighapatia. The oil and *surki* mills established in the district of Pabna are reported to be thriving, but the hosiery company there could not work owing to insufficient supply of cotton and woollen threads. Owing to a fall in the price of cloths, the weaving industry was not in a satisfactory condition in that district. The industry of preserving

mangoes by modern scientific processes in the district of Malda continued to prosper during the year. The manufacture of cotton cloth by hand-looms and of steel-trunks and brass utensils continued as in previous years. The silk industry in the district of Rajshahi is reported to be almost extinct.

Working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911).

[Annual Report on the working of the abovementioned Act in Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industries.]

Number of Factories and system of work.

348. The number of factories at the close of the year was 361 against 347 in 1913. Twenty new factories were brought under the operation of the Act, viz., 3 in Calcutta, 5 in the 24-Parganas, 3 in Howrah, 2 in Hooghly, 4 in Burdwan, 1 in Rangpur, 1 in Dacca, and 1 in Tippera. The daily average number of operatives employed during the year was 354,886 as compared with 341,820 in 1913. In 94 factories work was carried on by means of shifts and in 111 with stoppages after intervals of six hours; 37 factories were exempted under Part C, Schedule I of the Act, and in 114 factories other arrangements were in force.

Inspection.

349. One hundred and twenty-seven factories were inspected once, 90 factories twice, 37 factories three times, and 91 factories more than three times. Only 16 factories were not inspected during the year. The majority of inspections were made in Calcutta and the districts of the 24-Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Tippera.

Sanitary arrangements and quarters for operatives.

350. The sanitary condition of the factories was generally good. Septic tanks have been provided in many and are usually satisfactory, but the hand-service latrines could be greatly improved. There is a steady tendency to increase the accommodation for workers in the large factories, particularly in those which suffer from shortage of labour. Most of the jute mills have spent large sums in providing accommodation likely to attract and retain labour. The Fort Gloster Jute Mills at Budge-Budge have built a village with well-laid roads, *pucca* drains and a filtered water-supply, also a hospital, school, mosque and temple.

Water-supply.

351. The water-supply in factories was on the whole good. Most of the large mills provide their own filtered water, and two new installations were erected during the year at Champdany and Shamnagore. As the Howrah Municipality has not yet been able to increase its supply of filtered water, a number of factories in that district still suffer from a shortage during the hot season.

General health of operatives.

352. Apart from isolated cases of cholera in the 24-Parganas and some malaria and small-pox in the Serampore subdivision the general health of the operatives was fair throughout the year.

Wages and general condition.

353. There was little change in the rates of wages except in the case of skilled labour in Engineering works, which have been rising steadily in recent years. The completion of the Lower Ganges Bridge and the dearth of orders owing to the war caused the supply of skilled labour to exceed the demand in the latter part of the year.

Employment of women and children.

354. The rules framed under the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in respect of the employment of women and children were strictly enforced. In all 29,748 children were certified under section 7 of the Act by the various Certifying Surgeons of Factories in the Presidency. Of these 13,687 children were certified by the whole-time Certifying Surgeon, the late Captain J. C. Gillmon. Difficulties were experienced by Factory Inspectors in making mill authorities maintain attendance registers satisfactorily, but there was a marked improvement in the maintenance of children's registers during the year.

Fencing and machinery.

355. The machinery in mills and factories was generally well guarded, and no prosecution for neglect was instituted during 1914, but there is still room for considerable improvement in the precaution adopted in the larger factories against accidents in connection with transmission machinery, and better fencing arrangements are being gradually introduced.

Accidents.

356. Accidents numbered 1,173 as compared with 1,181 in the preceding year. Of these 48 were fatal. The cause of the accidents in the majority

of cases was negligence on the part of workers or direct disobedience of the standing orders of the factory.

Prosecutions. 357. There were ten prosecutions under the Act during the year; of these seven ended in conviction. In two cases the accused were acquitted and the remaining case was dropped.

Fires. 358. There was only one serious fire, which destroyed a jute press at Dacca.

Strikes. 359. There were a few comparatively unimportant strikes in certain jute mills, which were of short duration and did not assume any serious aspects.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1914-15. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency. Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. Review of the Trade of India. Statistical Abstract for British India, Vol. I.—Commercial Statistics.]

1.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1914-15.]

Foreign trade. 360. The total trade (Foreign and Coasting) of the Province of Bengal amounted in 1914-15 to Rs. 161 crores, a decrease of Rs. 54 crores on the figures for the previous year. The total foreign trade amounted to Rs. 138 crores, imports showing a decrease of Rs. 19 crores and exports of Rs. 28 crores. In the first four months of the year under review the trade of Bengal was prosperous, but the commencement of hostilities and the depredations of the enemy's cruisers restricted trade during August, September and October. Since then commerce has much expanded, financial supplies have been ample and, though restrained somewhat by scarcity of tonnage, trade has largely recovered its buoyancy: though naturally the value has not attained to the record figures of recent years. The nett result of this has been a contraction in value of past year's trade equivalent to 24·94 per cent. the lowest recorded since 1910-11. The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	Province.	Calcutta.	Chittagong.
Merchandise—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	57,16,38	56,20,98	95,40
Exports	74,47,06	71,13,00	3,34,06

The trade of the port of Chittagong is made up chiefly of exports of tea and raw jute.

Treasure. 361. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 282 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 383 lakhs in 1913-14. Of this, Rs. 86 lakhs were in gold, most of which came from Australia and China. Exports fell from Rs. 60·05 lakhs to Rs. 43·93 lakhs, of which Rs. 26·99 lakhs were of gold. State transactions in treasure during the year amounted to Rs. 36 lakhs, of which nearly Rs. 2 lakhs represented imports and Rs. 34 lakhs exports of silver. With the exception of treasure valued at Rs. 61,480 imported into Chittagong, all the treasure imported into and exported from Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Principal articles imported into Calcutta. 362. The following table shows the comparative importance of the principal articles imported into Calcutta, excluding Government stores (*in thousands of rupees*) :—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton goods	29,22,91	29,82,58	24,58,65
Metals and ores ...	6,90,96	9,66,18	5,60,73
Sugar	5,70,73	6,46,74	4,84,78

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Railway plant and rolling stock.	1,94,30	3,90,85.	4,47,66
Machinery and mill-work ...	2,09,65	3,20,64	2,52,80
Mineral oils	1,64,67	1,89,57	1,94,91
Hardware and cutlery, including electro-plated ware.	1,27,06	1,54,34	1,03,43
Woollen goods	75,49	89,81	44,98
Drugs, medicines and chemicals.	74.30	86,74	81,07
Liquors	66,27	68,70	56,14
Salt	62,09	65,87	53,77
Spices	67,51	68,52	71,37
Haberdashery and millinery	30,68	39,56	24,01
Apparel, excluding hosiery and boots and shoes.	25,56	27,59	15,77
Tobacco	26,18	25,15	26,09

Cotton goods.

363. The imports of cotton goods during 1914-15 showed a decrease of Rs. 5·24 crores or 18 per cent. from those of the previous year and represented about 44 per cent. of the value of total imports. Arrivals of twist and yarn were marked by an improvement of Rs. 16 lakhs or 17 per cent. over 1913-14. The trade in piece-goods showed a decrease of Rs. 466 lakhs (grey goods Rs. 261 lakhs, white goods Rs. 73 lakhs and coloured goods Rs. 132 lakhs). Imports of hosiery fell off by over Rs 11 lakhs to Rs. 58½ lakhs, of which Japan supplied Rs. 52½ lakhs. Handerchiefs and shawls also showed a marked falling off from Rs. 37¼ lakhs in 1913-14 to Rs. 21⅓ lakhs in 1914-15, of which the United Kingdom contributed Rs. 18⅓ lakhs.

Metals.

364. The volume of metals imported decreased by 42 per cent., the aggregate value being Rs. 5·61 crores as against Rs. 9·66 crores in the preceding year. Imports of iron or steel (wrought) showed a decrease of 46 per cent., the greatest decrease being in galvanized-iron sheets, namely, 57 per cent. The imports from the United Kingdom fell off by 43 per cent., from Germany by 64 per cent. and from Belgium by 56 per cent. Transactions in brass (wrought) decreased by 15 per cent., Germany sending 66 per cent. less, while the United Kingdom absorbed 41 per cent. of the trade. Imports of unwrought copper fell by 25 per cent. in value. Nearly the whole (92 per cent.) came from Japan. Wrought copper also was imported on a smaller scale and the quantity and value decreased each by 15 per cent. Imports from Germany fell from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs and the United Kingdom sent less by 1·68 per cent. with a total share in the value of 94 per cent. Imports of iron (unwrought) dropped by Rs. 3·36 lakhs. This trade will, it is believed, continue to decline, for Calcutta being the outlet for Kalimati, is not now so much an importer, as an exporter, of pig-iron. Of these imports, 99 per cent. came from the United Kingdom. Imports of tin decreased by 11 per cent. in quantity and 26 per cent. in value, but the trade is well up to the normal of previous years.

Sugar.

365. Imports of refined Java sugar fell from 306,001 tons to 171,953 tons and in value from Rs. 533 lakhs to Rs. 388 lakhs. The supplies from Mauritius also contracted by 22 per cent. Imports of beet sugar from Austria-Hungary fell from 17,698 tons to 3,383 tons or by 81 per cent. There were no imports whatever from Germany. An interesting feature in the trade consisted of imports towards the end of the year of 500 tons of Egyptian cane sugar of the value of Rs. 1·60 lakh. The phenomenal decrease in imports caused the prices to go up very high ; the average market price for imports of all refined Java sugar was Rs. 11-5-3 per cwt. as against Rs. 8-11-5 per cwt. in the previous year.

There was a considerable increase in imports of molasses from Java by 29,837 tons and by Rs. 17·55 lakhs in value. Supplies from Mauritius were also greater by 1.297 tons and Rs. 1·21 lakh.

Mineral Oils.

366. In the case of the oil trade high prices of the previous year were not maintained in this year, but this did not induce larger shipments, quantity

falling 4·6 per cent. and value by 3·5 per cent. Burma oil has been the cause of the total decline, falling by 11 per cent. in volume and 9 per cent. in value. Kerosene oil imports were greater by 9 per cent. both in quantity and value. The imports from the United States showed a slight fall, while Borneo oil showed a rise of 28 per cent. Bulk oil rose by 16·7 per cent. to 30·25 million gallons.

Machinery and mill-work.

367. There has been a great falling off under this head in the year under review from Rs. 3·21 crores to Rs. 2·33 crores or by 27·4 per cent. To the United Kingdom is credited 95·3 per cent. of the imports : her supply fell from Rs. 3 to 2·22 crores ; Germany's trade dropped from Rs. 11·55 to Rs. 3·39 lakhs and Austria-Hungary was responsible for only Rs. 505.

Railway plant and rolling stock.

368. Imports of railway plant and rolling-stock (on private and Government account) increased from Rs. 546 lakhs to Rs. 584 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 38·16 lakhs or 7 per cent. On private account the total value of imports was Rs. 4·48 crores or an increase of 14·6 per cent. ; for the State Rs. 1·36 crores against Rs. 1·55 crore in the preceding year, a fall of 12·2 per cent.

Hardware and cutlery.

369. The imports under this head aggregated Rs. 1·03 crores, a decrease of 33·12 per cent. over the previous year. The United Kingdom stands pre-eminent in this trade showing Rs. 77·23 lakhs or 74·7 per cent. of the total imports. The imports from Germany dropped from Rs. 24·18 to Rs. 9·04 lakhs ; Austria-Hungary from Rs. 7·39 to Rs. 2·34 lakhs ; the United States despatched Rs. 9·55 lakhs, a decrease of 53·4 per cent. The principal articles comprised under this head have suffered considerably from the war.

Woollen goods.

370. The imports of woollen goods decreased by about 50 per cent. from Rs. 90 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs. From the United Kingdom the value fell by 29·4 per cent. to Rs. 35·60 lakhs, Germany only sent Rs. 6·30 lakhs against Rs. 33·15 lakhs ; Holland alone showed a small increase.

Apparel.

371. The trade under this head has suffered seriously in the year under report and the value has fallen from Rs. 27·59 lakhs to Rs. 15·77 lakhs, a decrease of 42·8 per cent. The imports from the United Kingdom have fallen by 35·6 per cent. and the value stands at Rs. 12·03 lakhs against Rs. 18·67 lakhs in the preceding year. There was not much decline in the imports of boots and shoes, although there was an enormous demand for leather equipment of all kinds in Europe. Haberdashery and Millinery declined from Rs. 39·56 to Rs. 24 lakhs only or by 39·3 per cent.

Salt.

372. The total importations of salt during the year, namely, 356,504 tons were less than those of the preceding year by 130,054 tons. The decrease in imports from the United Kingdom, Spain, Red Sea ports and Hamburg is abnormal due to shortage of tonnage and high freights owing to the war.

Spices.

373. Imports of spices showed an increase, the value rising by 4 per cent. from Rs. 68·52 to Rs. 71·37 lakhs. Of this 91·5 per cent. is absorbed by the imports of betel-nuts, 99·5 per cent. of which came from the Straits Settlements. Imports of cloves fell from 1·13 million to 421,042 lbs. or by 62·8 per cent. Pepper also was in great defect showing a decrease of 60·4 per cent. Imports of cardamoms rose from 14,759 to 63,212 lbs.

Liquors.

374. There was a smart decline (18·3 per cent.) in the imports of liquors, their value being the lowest recorded since 1906-07. The fall is most noticeable in beer, German spirits and sparkling wines due either directly or indirectly to war.

Chemicals, drugs and medicines.

375. The year opened with promise of a very good import trade under this head, but with the opening of the war and consequent restrictions a decline began and for the year the figures show a decrease of Rs. 5·67 lakhs or 6·5 per cent. The United Kingdom supplied imports to the value of Rs. 57·15 lakhs. a decrease of 4·8 per cent. representing 70·5 per cent. of the total imports under the head. The rest of Europe, consisting mainly of Germany, Belgium and Italy, sent Rs. 10·89 lakhs, a decrease of 28·9 per cent., the United States' share was Rs. 2·27 lakhs, an increase of 39·2 per cent.

Tobacco.

376. The imports of *unmanufactured tobacco* dropped from 137,847 to 53,692 lbs. valued at Rs. 38,518. The demand for cigars was also smaller, the quantity dropping from 43,609 to 31,817 lbs. or 27 per cent. valued at Rs. 1·30 lakh. The abnormal war demand for all descriptions of tobacco at

home accounts for the decrease in the imports. There has been a considerable expansion in imports of cigarettes, and the quantity has risen by 17·54 millions to 152·77 millions valued at Rs. 18·44 lakhs. The bulk of the cigarettes (146·06 millions) came from the United Kingdom, an increase of 17·33 per cent. valued at Rs. 16·98 lakhs.

377. The total foreign import trade (merchandise and treasure) of Chittagong and its subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 96·02 lakhs as compared with Rs. 141·20 and 86·87 lakhs, repectively, in 1913-14 and 1912-13. The chief imports were railway materials (Rs. 31·47 lakhs), metals (Rs. 28·99 lakhs), cotton goods (Rs. 10·41 lakhs) and tea chests (Rs. 6·07 lakhs). The largest decrease occurred in metals. **Eastern Bengal Ports.**

378. The following statement shows how the import trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta with foreign countries was distributed :— **Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.**

	1913-14.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs. (lakhs).	Rs. (lakhs).	Per cent. of total.	Per cent. of total.
United Kingdom	50,35	41,65	71·2	74·1
Other British Possessions ...	2,29	2,17	3·2	3·8
Germany	3,73	1,28	5·3	2·2
Java	5,75	4,56	8·1	8·1
United States	1,90	1,56	2·7	2·8
Japan	1,56	1,61	2·2	2·9
Belgium	1,16	51	1·6	·9
Austria-Hungary	1,16	32	1·6	·6
Total Imports (including other countries.)	70,69	56,21	100	100

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

379. The following table gives the values of the more important products in the export trade of Calcutta, and shows their comparative importance (*in thousands of rupees*) :— **Principal articles exported from Calcutta.**

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute, manufactured ...	22,76,63	28,19,96	25,77,29
Jute, raw ...	24,47,00	28,03,44	11,82,88
Tea	8,86,46	10,55,66	11,42,65
Hides and skins, raw	8,33,56	8,47,59	5,20,11
Seeds	4,11,41	3,59,08	3,62,69
Grain and pulse ...	10,83,82	6,85,60	3,32,01
Opium	5,69,57	2,01,38	1,76,35
Lac	2,05,91	1,91,46	1,59,41
Cotton, raw ...	1,16,12	2,02,01	1,06,41
Indigo	17,85	17,75	69,44
Coal and coke ...	88,31	69,13	52,79
Saltpetre ...	34,86	29,94	41,41
Hemp, raw ...	44,42	56,41	46,68
Mica	43,90	35,51	23,04

380. The war closed at once a large central market for the raw material. The total value of the trade in jute (raw and manufactured) has fallen by 33·14 per cent., and is the lowest since the year 1911-12. Raw jute in particular has fallen off by 32·7 per cent. in quantity and 57·8 per cent. in value, the lowest aggregate since 1904-05. Manufactures declined by only 8·6 per cent., but are still much greater than in 1912-13. Gunny-bags rose by 8 and ·6 per cent., respectively, in number and value ; gunny-cloth declined in yardage by ·35 per cent. and fell by 15·9 per cent. in value. The jute trade in the year represented 52·9 per cent. of the total value of exports of merchandise from Calcutta against 57·4 per cent. last year. Shipments of raw jute to the United Kingdom decreased by 3·6 per cent. in quantity and 41·5 per cent. in value and were confined to the ports of London and Liverpool. To Dundee the quantity rose from 966,297 to over one million bales. All countries with **Jute, raw and manufactured.**

the exception of Italy and Spain exhibited a smaller trade and even to these two countries exports were below the figures of 1912-13.

A prominent feature of the year's trade in bags and cloth was the large export to United Kingdom, the total value rose to Rs. 2·18 crores or by 23·8 per cent., but bags rose in number by 19·8 millions or 72 per cent. and cloth by 17 million yards or by 33·3 per cent. Another striking feature was the enormous shipments of bags and cloth to Russia *vid* Vladivostock resulting in an increase from Rs. 11 to Rs. 23 lakhs. The value of bags and cloth exported to the Argentine fell from Rs. 2·94 to Rs. 2·36 crores. The United States shipments fell in value from Rs. 11·74 to Rs. 10·10 crores. There was a large advance of 98·6 per cent. to Rs. 29·32 lakhs in exports to Japan. With Germany, Belgium, Egypt and Turkey in Europe trade was naturally lower.

Tea. 381. The war has contributed greatly to the tea industry and shipments of tea from Calcutta beat the record of last year. The quantity despatched showed considerable expansion increasing from 209·163 million lbs. to 226·729 million lbs. in the year under report. There was a considerable increase in the shipments to the United Kingdom from 140·857 million lbs. to 176·010 million lbs. or 24·9 per cent. value being higher by 24·5 per cent. Exports to United States and Australasia also expanded by 40 and 13 per cent., respectively. All other countries, namely, Russia, Ottoman Empire, Germany, China all took less than the preceding year.

Hides and skins. 382. Owing to restrictions and prohibitions the trade in hides and skins exhibited a decrease in quantity of 35·8 per cent. and in value of 38·4 per cent. The decline was not confined to either hides or skins, but both have shrunk financially, the former by 40·7 and the latter by 29·9 per cent. With the exception of the United Kingdom all the principal countries took smaller quantities than in 1913-14. To the United Kingdom exports of both descriptions mounted up very considerably from Rs. 12·94 to Rs. 42·07 lakhs equivalent to 225 per cent.

Oilseeds. 383. The total export of oilseeds declined slightly by 78,603 cwts. or 1·7 per cent., but by reason of higher prices the value rose slightly. The quantity of linseed shipped for export was greater by 3·2 per cent. and the value by 6·6 per cent. It covered 94 per cent. of the total export of oilseeds from Calcutta. All countries except Germany took larger quantities than in the preceding year. The exports of rape seed declined in quantity by 24·2 per cent. and in value by 19·8 per cent.

Grain and pulse. 384. Two consecutive bad monsoons have had their effect on the rice harvest and on exports ; the climatic conditions for wheat in the east of the United and Central Provinces whence Calcutta draws her supplies were adverse during the last three years. The result has been a serious decline in exports of grain and pulse from Calcutta ; the quantity has fallen by 58·8 per cent. and the value by 51·6 per cent. Shipments of rice fell by 47·8 per cent. in quantity and by 46·3 per cent. in value. Ceylon, the greatest customer, took 54 per cent. less. Shipments of wheat and flour from Calcutta fell from 1,560,849 cwts. to 117,588 cwts. or 92 per cent. The outstanding feature of the year in the wheat market was the prohibition on the export of wheat. Exports of barley fell by about 100 per cent. from 1,084,997 cwts. to 1,075 cwts. only, while pulses fell from 1,513,539 cwts. to 837,489 cwts. or 44·7 per cent.

Opium. 385. Two years have now elapsed and no opium was exported from Calcutta to China. But there has been a marked expansion upon the previous year's figures. The number of chests exported from Calcutta rose from 9,151 to 10,856 or 18·6 per cent., but the value fell by 12·4 per cent. from Rs. 201 lakhs to Rs. 176 lakhs.

Lac. 386. Notwithstanding adverse circumstances the exports of lac were greater by 10·6 per cent., but lower prices caused the total value to decline by 16·7 per cent. The United States took the largest supplies, 53·6 per cent. of the whole ; the United Kingdom comes next with 26·6 per cent.

Cotton raw. 387. Exports of raw cotton have receded considerably in quantity from 566,433 cwts. to 366,504 cwts. or 35·3 per cent. and in value by 47·3 per cent. Japan has absorbed 53·2 per cent. of the total exports, but her demand in the

previous year was exceptional. Germany took 8·8 per cent., Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom all took much more.

388. Shipments of indigo rose by 13 per cent. in quantity, but the value expanded by 291·2 per cent., the declared average price having risen from Rs. 149 to Rs. 516 per maund. The home country has for some time past depended largely on synthetic indigo, but with the commencement of hostilities the import of that product from Germany stopped. Stocks of natural indigo were not large and the price rose to unheard of ranges. The high prices now ruling have encouraged the reopening of abandoned indigo factories, but the unprecedented prices for seed are an obstacle to much expansion. **Indigo.**

389. There was a decline of 17·8 per cent. in quantity and of 23·7 per cent. in value of coal and coke sent to foreign ports. The production of coal in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa increased during the year, but owing to want of tonnage Ceylon took less than in the preceding year. All countries except Aden which took more this year, reduced their purchases. **Coal and Coke.**

390. The exports of saltpetre rose by 21·7 per cent. in quantity and 38·3 per cent. in value, the highest recorded since 1911-12. With the outbreak of hostilities movements of this product were controlled by Government and shipments of any quantity under 20 per cent. refraction was only permitted to the United Kingdom. As a consequence that country absorbed 55·8 per cent. of the year's exports. **Saltpetre.**

391. The export trade of Chittagong was much affected by the absence of tonnage and the value receded from Rs. 4·85 to Rs. 3·34 crores or by 31·1 per cent. The heaviest deficits being under raw Jute and Tea. **Eastern Bengal ports.**

392. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal countries in the export trade (merchandise only) of Calcutta :— **Export trade with other countries.**

	1913-14. Rs. (lakhs).	1914-15. Rs. (lakhs).	1913-14. Per cent. of total.	1914-15. Per cent. of total.
United Kingdom ...	25,11·17	23,61·81	25·6	33·2
Other British Possessions	12,76·13	10,38·93	13·0	14·6
United States	18.53·13	14,77·36	18·9	20·8
Germany	11,22·01	3,12·46	11·5	4·4
South America ...	4,49·64	3,39·93	4·6	4·8
Austria-Hungary ...	3,98·01	1,05·49	4·1	1·5
France	3,59·83	1,45·15	3·7	2
Japan	2,75·46	1.47·42	2·8	2
Italy	2,46·81	1,75·67	2·5	2·5
Russia	2,08·27	1,38·27	2·1	1·9
Java	1,50·65	1,20·23	1·5	1·7
China Treaty Ports ...	1,10·91	1,05·33	1·1	1·5
Belgium	94·39	40·47	1	·6
Total Exports (including other countries).	97,90·23	71,13·00	100	100

II.—FRONTIER TRADE.

[Report on the Frontier Trade of Bengal for 1914-15.]

393. The total value of the trade with the adjacent States of Sikkim Nepal, Tibet, and Bhutan in the year ending 31st March 1915, amounted to Rs. 108·88 lakhs exclusive of the movements of treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective. This figure represents a decrease of Rs. 14·87 lakhs or 12 per cent. due to the effect of war. **Frontier trade.**

394. Of the total value of the imports into Bengal (Rs. 75 lakhs), 38 per cent. came from Sikkim, 34 per cent. from Nepal, 24 per cent. from Tibet, and the balance of about 4 per cent. from Bhutan. The principal articles of import into Bengal were :—from Sikkim animals, living—Rs. 5·90 lakhs, grain and pulse 5·44 lakhs, *ghi* Rs. 1·4 lakh and spices Rs. 2·72 lakhs. There was practically no import of brass and copper during the year from Sikkim. From Nepal, animals Rs. 15·32 lakhs, fruits, vegetables and nuts,—other kinds Rs. 6·51 lakhs, and provisions—*ghi*, Rs. 1·46 lakh; from Tibet, raw wool, which constitutes the main staple of import, 47,223 maunds, **Imports into Bengal.**

valued at (Rs. 14·16 lakhs), musk and yaks' tails, valued jointly at Rs. 78 thousand; from Bhutan, animals, valued at Rs. 1·44 lakhs.

Export from Bengal.

395. Of the total exports (Rs. 33·90 lakhs), 46 per cent. went to Sikkim, 15 per cent. to Nepal, 34 per cent. to Tibet, and about 5 per cent. to Bhutan. The exports from Bengal to Sikkim consisted mainly of cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·47 lakhs), provisions (Rs. 2·8 lakhs), grain and pulse chiefly rice (Rs. 2·38 lakhs), and metals and manufactures thereof (Rs. 1·25 lakhs); to Nepal, cotton manufactures (Rs. 2·72 lakhs), and metals (Rs. 37,000); and to Tibet, cotton piece-goods (Rs. 3·84 lakhs), metals (Rs. 1·69 lakh), and woollen piece-goods (Rs. 1·59 lakh). The principal commodities exported to Bhutan were cotton piece-goods, valued at Rs. 34,000 and spices at Rs. 48,000.

III.—COASTING TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1914-15.]

Coasting trade.

396. The total value of the coasting trade, including Government stores and treasure, of Bengal, amounted to Rs. 23·3 crores, a decrease of Rs. 6·4 crores. In Calcutta, to which 86 per cent. of the trade belongs, there was an increase in imports of private merchandise from Rs. 11·09 crores to Rs. 11·86 crores, but exports declined by Rs. 3·09 crores. Transactions in most of those articles that form the bulk of Calcutta's import trade with Indian ports contracted, and it was only owing to the phenomenal receipts of rice from Burma (which rose in value from Rs. 2·75 to Rs. 4·88 crores) and groundnuts from Madras an increase from Rs. 13 to Rs. 91 lakhs that the total trade showed any improvement. Imports of mineral oil from Burma declined from 54 to 51 million gallons and the value from Rs. 1·98 to Rs. 1·95 crore, paddy from Rs. 73 to Rs. 62 lakhs, teak from Rs. 69 to Rs. 49 lakhs and raw cotton from Rs. 30 to Rs. 15 lakhs. Under exports there was a general contraction in most of the principal articles. Jute manufactures dropped from Rs. 3·14 to Rs. 1·83 crore. Coal declined from Rs. 2·19 to Rs. 1·68 crore. The partial failure of the Bengal crops restricted exports of grain and pulse and the value declined from Rs. 107 to Rs. 64 lakhs.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in 1914-15.]

Rail and River-borne trade.

397. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.		Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta from other provinces.	Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta to other provinces.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.
1913-14 ...	Mds.	196,102,324	66,168,190	135,852,100	41,519,657
	Rs.	58,28,29,106	49,72,48,571	59,28,04,187	40,26,96,825
1914-15 ...	Mds.	186,363,128	78,906,689	118,315,429	40,819,917
	Rs.	54,02,81,614	51,90,64,381	46,30,42,677	40,43,87,269

The imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, were valued at Rs. 54 crores, of which 37 per cent. came from Bihar and Orissa, 27 per cent. from Assam, 17 per cent. from the United Provinces, 6 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 3 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance of 10 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 52 crores), 38 per cent. went to Bihar and Orissa, 25 per cent. to the United Provinces, 16 per cent. to Assam, 7 per cent. to the Punjab, 4 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder, 10 per cent., to other provinces.

Imports into Bengal.

398. The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were from Bihar and Orissa, coal and coke (Rs. 4 crores), oil-seeds (Rs. 2·9 crores), railway materials (Rs. 2·4 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 2 crores), jute (Rs. 93 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 91 lakhs), and lac (Rs. 66 lakhs); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, oil-seeds (Rs. 2·2 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·6 crore), hides and skins (Rs. 1 crore), *ghi* (Rs. 74 lakhs), opium (Rs. 70 lakhs), and lac (Rs. 39 lakhs); from Assam, tea (Rs. 11·11 crores), grain and pulse (Rs. 1·2 crore), and jute (Rs. 61 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 1·65 crores), wheat (Rs. 32 lakhs), and hides (Rs. 16 lakhs); and from the Punjab, wheat (Rs. 44 lakhs) and hides and skins (Rs. 18 lakhs).

Exports from Bengal.

399. The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Bihar and Orissa comprised mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 6·87 crores), rice (Rs. 2·63 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·56 crores), oils, chiefly kerosene (Rs. 1 crore), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 1·24 crore), sugar (Rs. 85 lakhs), salt (Rs. 77 lakhs), spices (Rs. 53 lakhs), and gunny-bags (Rs. 37 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 3·67 crores), grain and pulse, chiefly rice (Rs. 2·89 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·5 crore), sugar (Rs. 1·20 crore), kerosene oil (Rs. 71 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 54 lakhs), and railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 44 lakhs); to Assam cotton manufactures (Rs. 1·96 crore), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·46 crore), rice (Rs. 79 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 54 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 82 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 80 lakhs), rice (Rs. 51 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 38 lakhs), and sugar (Rs. 18 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consisted principally of sugar (Rs. 26 lakhs), rice (Rs. 24 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 16 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 16 lakhs), and cotton piece-goods—foreign (Rs. 14 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Strength of the Department and allotment of superior posts.

400. One of the principles of the reorganisation scheme promulgated in 1912 is that the superior posts (*i.e.*, administrative and divisional charges and charges of equal importance), in the Engineer Establishment shall be held by qualified officers of the Imperial and Provincial services who have completed 10 years' service. In order to admit of an equable flow of promotion to these posts, it was decided that the total strength of the establishment should bear a definite relation to the number of the superior posts. On this principle the Government of India have fixed the superior posts for this Presidency at 15 Imperial and 8 Provincial, and the strength of the Engineer Establishment of the Province at 48, of whom 32 are in the Imperial and 16 in the Provincial branch.

Recruitment of the Provincial Branch of the Public Works Department.

401. Under the orders of the Government of India issued in 1892, one appointment in the Provincial Engineer Service was annually guaranteed to the Engineer students of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. It is not, however, possible to maintain this rate of recruitment, as the Bengal cadre of Engineers was reduced on the reconstitution of the Province in April 1912. The Government of India has accordingly decided, in order to keep faith with the students of the Sibpur Engineering College who entered the College when one appointment a year was guaranteed, to give the qualified student in alternate years a State Railway appointment.

Reduction of work in the Secretariat and Public Works Department offices.

402. The Government of India, when sanctioning a second Chief Engineer for Bengal for five years for the present, suggested that steps should be taken to reduce work in the Secretariat. With this end in view the Local Government has sanctioned the delegation to Superintending Engineers of certain powers which have hitherto been exercised by Government, the discontinuance of certain reports and returns to Government, and the submission of others at longer intervals.

Permanent Electrical Division.

403. The system of entrusting electrical works in connection with Government buildings to private firms not having proved satisfactory, a temporary Government Electrical Division was created on the 1st April 1908

as an experiment. It proved to be both successful and economical, but its operations were hampered owing to the temporary nature of the Division. The best men both in the superior and subordinate establishments could not be induced to remain. With a view to remove this difficulty and to retain other advantages, the Secretary of State sanctioned the Electrical Division being placed on a permanent footing. This was done on the 1st January 1914, and a specially qualified Electrical Engineer was placed in charge of it on a salary of Rs. 600—40—1,000 per mensem.

Special Officer for survey of the River Hooghly.

404. At the instance of the Port Facilities Committee a special officer, Major Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys, was appointed to investigate the question of river improvement and to prepare a complete survey of the river Hooghly between Calcutta and Nadia. The work was difficult, requiring very careful investigation.

Dacca University.

405. At the instance of the Education Department preliminary works were started in connection with the buildings of the proposed Dacca University at a cost of 9 lakhs of rupees. As it was impossible for this work to be undertaken by the ordinary staff of the Dacca Public Works Division in addition to their other duties, a special temporary Division called the Dacca University Division was formed and placed in charge of an experienced Executive Engineer assisted by a subordinate Engineering staff of two Upper and three Lower Subordinates.

Buildings.

Expenditure.

406. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,58,70,411, of which Rs. 9,768,018 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 6,102,393 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 97,68,018 incurred by the Public Works Department Rs. 10,27,352 were spent on Imperial works, Rs. 86,21,351 on Provincial Works and Rs. 1,19,315 on local and contribution works.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Civil Works, Salt.

407. *Salt Golas at Chittagong*—The raising of the low land and construction of embankment for railway sidings and roads were completed. Two wagon weighbridges were erected and permanent-way for the sidings was laid through the agency of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The construction of two screw-pile jetties and a shed for weighing scales was commenced. A *pucca* well for the use of the staff was sunk in the compound.

Post and Telegraph offices.

408. The following works were in progress during the year :—

Certain internal improvements in the General Post Office building, Calcutta ; construction of the Postmaster's quarters at Krishnagar and additions and alterations to the Post Office ; construction of a Post Office at Alipur Duars and at Chittagong ; some additional work in connection with the additions and alterations to the Post Office and Postmaster's quarters at Barisal ; construction of a combined Post and Telegraph office at Natore town ; and additions and alterations to the combined Post and Telegraph office at Rajshahi.

The following works were completed during the year :—

Fitting up the first floor rooms of the old Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, with bins, gangways, and staircases for the accommodation of the Check Office of the Telegraph Department ; additions and alterations to the ground floor of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, for the accommodation of the Parcel and Sorting Section of the Postal Department and for the quarters of the Assistant Postmaster ; electric installation in the old Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta ; erection of an electric lift in the Telegraph Check Office, Calcutta (old Telegraph Office) ; additions and alterations to the Combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Suri and Burdwan ; additions and alterations to the combined Post and Telegraph Office with Postmaster's quarters at Dinajpur ; and construction of a combined Post and Telegraph office with Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Balurghat.

409. Wiring for two 10-amp. arc lamps at the Geological Survey Office, Indian Museum, Calcutta, was completed. **Museum.**

410. The silver tanks in the compound of the Photo-litho Office, Calcutta, were enlarged and reconstructed, an additional developing room in the Helio section and a lavatory on the second floor of the Surveyor-General's Office, Calcutta, were provided. One 5 horse-power motor, one fan and seven Solenoid starters were installed at the Photo-litho Office. **Surveyor-General's office.**

411. In St. James's Parsonage the surface drains were improved—cast-iron down pipes were substituted in place of earthen spouts. Certain improvements to the Church of Rome at Saidpur were completed. **Church.**

412. The additions and alterations in connection with the sanitary arrangements and other works in the Bishop's Palace were completed. An installation of eight points for two ceiling and six table fans, three power plugs and four lights for the Lord Bishop's Palace was completed. **Lord Bishop's Palace.**

413. At the Dhurrumtollah Press Buildings a cook-room and servants' room for the Foundry Foreman and a cook-shed for menials were built. The rewiring of the electric installation in the Central Press, Calcutta, was taken up. The installation of a ventilating fan in the Type Foundry and the installation of electric pumps for fire protection in the Dhurrumtollah Presses were completed. **Printing.**

414. New latrines and urinals with under-drainage were constructed in the compound of the Meteorological Office at Alipore. **Meteorological Office.**

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

415. The rewiring of the electric installation in the old High Court building, Calcutta, was completed. **High Court.**

416. No. 85, Lower Circular Road, was leased by Government for 5 years for the establishment of a Juvenile Court and House of Detention for juvenile offenders arrested or convicted within the Presidency town of Calcutta. Necessary repairs and also additions and alterations, including an electric installation, were carried out. **Revenue and Judicial Courts.**

The following works were completed during the year :—

The installation of electric lights in the Civil Court at Howrah; the new Civil Court at Bankura; an additional building for the Subdivisional Court at Narail; a single Munsifi at Asansol; a record-rack in the new Munsifi at Asansol; the new Collectorate at Midnapore; additions and alterations to the Civil Court at Khulna; the Munsiff's Court at Ulubaria; the Collectorate at Barisal; a Khas Tahsil office at Contai; a library room in the Subdivisional Court building at Arambagh; the Commissioner's Office at Jalpaiguri; record-racks for the criminal records in the Magistrate's Court, Dinajpur; an installation of lights and fans in the Magistrate and Collector's Court buildings at Dacca; a Record-room and Vernacular Office, including peons' quarters, in the Settlement Office, and the Drawing Office for the Settlement operations at Boalia.

The following works were in progress during the year :—

Additions and alterations to the District Judge's Court at Midnapore; the Subdivisional Court, Tamluk; two sheds for the Settlement Presses and Vernacular Office at Boalia; and the Subdivisional Court at Munshiganj.

417. The construction of the two Munsiffs' quarters at Diamond Harbour was completed. The construction of quarters for the Sub-Deputy Collectors at Satkhira and Basirhat was completed. The construction of a subdivisional residence at Tangail was completed. The construction of a Second Officer's quarters at Pirojpur was completed, except for a few small details. The construction of a Third Officer's quarters at Pirojpur was in progress. At Rajbari the construction of a Subdivisional Officer's residence was completed, except one of the servants' quarters, which was still in progress. **Subdivisional Officers' and Munsiffs' residences.**

Circuit-house.

418. The work of additions and alterations to the Circuit-house at Pabna was almost completed.

Excise.

419. The construction of a new liquor warehouse at Barrackpore was commenced and nearly completed. The Excise warehouse at Bankura was completed and that at Krishnagar was extended. A liquor warehouse and *ganja gola* at Bandel was under construction, and a liquor warehouse was constructed at Basirhat. Materials were collected for the construction of an excise warehouse at Bhairab, and work was commenced during the year. At Chittagong a bonded liquor warehouse was completed, except the compound fencing and roads.

Residences for the Local Government.

420. The installation of lights and fans in the Governor's Body Guard Lines at Alipore was completed. The following works in connection with Government House, Darjeeling, were completed :—

(1) New kitchen wing.
(2) Unmarried Bandsmen's quarters.
(3) Married ditto,
(4) Quarters for the Band Sergeant-major.
(5) Hospital and Assistant Surgeon's quarters.

The latrines attached to Government House, Darjeeling, were dismantled and new reinforced concrete latrines of the flush type erected and connected with the municipal sewage system.

The following new buildings were begun and almost completed :—

(1) Gate Guard House at Government House, Darjeeling.
(2) Gurkha Guards' quarters ditto, ditto.
(3) Lumber Room ditto, ditto.

A considerable extension to Government House, Dacca, was commenced and completed as an urgent work before His Excellency's visit in July 1914.

Secretariat Offices.

421. The electric installation in the Bengal Secretariat Branch Press at No. 3, Koilaghat Street, was completed. The electric installation in the Record-room, Block No. V, and the installation of lights and fans in some of the rooms of the Bengal Secretariat Press in Writers' Buildings were completed. The additions and alterations to the electric installation in the 1st floor of Block No. III, Writers' Buildings, occupied by the Public Works Department, were completed. The remodelling of the latrines attached to the Circuit-house, the Bengal Secretariat, and Meadow Bank, Darjeeling, was in progress. Certain improvements to the Branch Press Manager's quarters and the Press in the old Cutchery building, Darjeeling, were taken in hand and completed. The construction of a new Secretariat for the Bengal Government offices when in residence at Dacca was commenced, and the foundations were built up to ground level.

Residences for Government officials.

422. Land was purchased from the Calcutta Corporation for the residence of the Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, Alipore, and the construction of the building was nearly completed. The electric installation in the quarters of the Principal, Calcutta Madrassa, was completed. The improvements to the Civil Surgeon's residence at Suri, which were commenced last year, were completed. The construction of a residence for the District Judge of Khulna and the construction of a residence for the Civil Surgeon at Khulna were completed. The construction of the Settlement Officer's quarters at Boalia was in progress. The improvements to the Superintendent of Police's residence at Bogra were finished, except the compound fencing. The construction of the Civil Surgeon's residence at Rangpur was completed. The additions and alterations to the Civil Surgeon's residence at Bogra were nearly completed. The construction of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's residence at Jalpaiguri was completed. The construction of a residence for the District Judge at Barisal was in progress. A residence for the Superintendent of Police at Faridpur was completed, and the construction of a residence for the Civil Surgeon at Rangamati was in progress.

Jails.

423. The New Forms Stores in connection with the Press in the Central Jail at Alipore were nearly completed. A water reservoir and pump shed

for supplying unfiltered water from Tolly's *nala* to the engine of the jute mill in the Presidency Jail were erected. Quarters for the Jailor and Head Warder were erected in the compound of the Sub-Jail at Barasat. The construction of two dumping stations in the Presidency Jail, Calcutta, was completed. The erection of new quarters for the 3rd Assistant Jailor of the Central Jail, Alipore, was nearly completed. The installation of lights and fans and a goods lift in the Forms Block at the Alipore New Central Jail was completed. The installation of special lights for Bomb Prisoners in Alipore Jail was completed. The installation of electric lights in the European Undertrial ward and in the Jute Mill, etc., in the Presidency Jail, Alipore, was completed. The extension of the Sub-jail at Satkhira was in progress. The construction of family quarters for the Head Warders attached to the Sub-Jail at Balurghat, the improvements to the existing arrangement of water-supply in the jail at Dinajpur, the extension of the Jailor's Office in the Boalia Central Jail, the enlargement of the Bogra Jail, and the improvements to the jail buildings at Bogra were completed. The construction of the Jail Hospital, Rangpur, was more than three-fourths completed. The improvements of the Jailor's quarters, Malda, was two-thirds completed. A set of 12 quarters for the subordinate officers of the Central Jail at Dacca was constructed. The water-supply of the Jail at Mymensingh was improved. The construction of the Sub-Jail buildings at Mymensingh was completed. The construction of a *hajat* ward and confessing cells in the Central Jail at Dacca was also completed. The additions and alterations to the segregation ward in the Mymensingh Jail were nearly completed. In the District Jail at Comilla a rice godown, segregation ward and a workshed were nearly completed. The construction of a hospital, an undertrial ward and the filling in of low lands in the Comilla Jail were in progress. The work of installing a pipe water-supply in the Jail at Barisal was completed.

Police.

424. The Sergeants' Barrack, Lal Bazar, was completed. The Birjitolla outpost building was reconstructed on a new and raised site near the old building. The additions and alterations to premises No. 2, Bankshall Street, to accommodate the Police Court and to the Police Morgue at the Medical College were completed. At Paikpara new barracks for 120 armed Police and quarters for the European Sergeants and Jamadars were completed. The construction of a European Female Vagrant Ward in the Government Workhouse, Amherst Street, was completed. The electric installations in the New Police Central Barrack at Lal Bazar, the barracks and parade ground of the armed Police at Paikpara and in the Police Court at No. 2, Bankshall Street, were completed. The Police Hospitals at Chinsurah and Bankura were completed. The Town outpost at Kharuabazar at Chinsurah, and the Sadar police-station at Bankura were also completed. The *Thana* buildings at Galsi were reconstructed. Land for the Police buildings at Choa in Murshidabad district was acquired and the house known as "Mission Hostel" at Bankura was purchased and thoroughly repaired for the accommodation of the Bankura Town Police. A barrack with cook-room and privy for the accommodation of 2 Head-constables and 24 constables at the Sadar police-station, Khulna, was constructed. The additions and alterations to the 1st and 2nd Sub-Inspectors' quarters at Amta were in progress.

The following buildings were completed in the Northern Circle :—

European Inspectors' quarters and a barrack for the armed Police Reserve at Jalpaiguri; the Police Lines at Rangpur; a double-storeyed barrack and kitchen for the Town Police at Kurseong; Police-station building at Nandigram and Pabna; Sub-Inspector's and Head-constables' quarters, Chaukidari shed, and Constables' cook-shed at Natore police-station; additions and alterations to the Police offices at Rajshahi and Dinajpur; and a temporary barrack for 60 additional recruits and 4 Head-constables in the Constables' Training School, Rajshahi.

The following works were in progress :—

The Police barracks at Bloomfield Spur; Police buildings at Sibganj, Sherpur, Kahaloo, Saidpur, Gangachora and Harishchandrapur; the two Sub-Inspectors' quarters at the Kotwali police-station, Bogra; the Police Hospital at Jalpaiguri; the Police Investigating centres at Kaharul, Birol, Bochaganj, Debipur, Haripur and Kushmudi in the Rajshahi Division;

Improvements to the quarters of the Inspectors of Police, Nos. I and II Divisions; and the Deputy Superintendent of Police's residence at Balurghat.

The following works in connection with the Central Police Training College at Sarda were completed :—

Quarters for 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 6 Inspectors and 6 Sub-Inspectors; the Dispensary building; 3 Clerks' and one Compounder's quarters; Sub-Inspector's quarters No. 4; the Obstacle course and racks in the Police Training College.

The existing old Volunteer headquarters at Darjeeling were dismantled and the erection of quarters for the Sadar Inspector, Chourasta, Sergeant and Town Inspectors on this site was started.

In the Eastern Circle, the following Police buildings were constructed :—

A barrack and cook-sheds for 11 constables at Kagmari in Mymensingh district; quarters for 2 Sub-Inspectors at Narayanganj and at Lohajang; Investigating centres at Manikganj and Lohajang; and barracks and cook-sheds for Military Detachments at Jamalpur, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Tangail, Netrokona and Kishoreganj.

The buildings for the Dacca Military Police Battalion were still in progress. The Investigating centre at Pirojpur in Bakarganj district was completed. The Investigating centre at Matberia and Badartuni were approaching completion at the end of the year. The Investigating centres at Jhalakati and Banaripara were under construction. An Investigating centre was constructed at Muradnagar in the district of Tippera. The construction of a barrack for 21 constables and a parade shed at Rajbari was completed. The construction of an office for the Superintendent of Police at Faridpur was in progress. Residences for the Assistant Superintendents of Police were constructed at Madaripur and Patuakhali. In the Reserve Police Lines at Chittagong the quarters for the married Sub-Inspectors and Head-constables were completed. The new Investigating centres at Begumganj and at Sandip were completed, except the latrines and improvements in the compound. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts the construction of a Police *thana* with Sub-Inspector's quarters at Ruma was completed.

Educational.

425. Land was acquired for (1) the Muhammadan Arts College and the Calcutta Madrassa; (2) the construction of a hostel for St. Xavier's College, Calcutta; (3) the construction of the David Hare Training College, Ballyganj. Sanitary improvements were made in the Hastings House at Alipore, which has been converted into a residential school for Indian boys. Structural additions and alterations were also carried out to fit the buildings for school purposes. Land was also acquired for the construction of a hostel for the Bangabasi College, Calcutta. The additions and alterations to the boarders' quarters at the Bethune College, Calcutta, were completed. The installation of an electric ventilating fan in the Chemical Laboratory of the Presidency College was completed. Provision of an electric installation in Hastings House was commenced, and an electric installation for the College and School Departments and Students' hostel, Bethune College, Calcutta, were completed. The compound of the Barrackpore Government School was raised, and surface drains and pathways constructed. Certain improvements were made in the Government School at Barasat. The extensions of the Hindu hostel and the Chemical Laboratory buildings attached to the Hooghly College, the extension of the Hindu hostel attached to the Bankura Zilla School and the construction of a hostel for Muhammadan students attached to the Zilla School at Jessore were completed. The construction of a *Guru*-training School at Sanko and Ghatbaor was completed. The construction of the Practising schools attached to the *Guru*-training schools at Kamalpur and Debagram in the Nadia district was far advanced. The connection of the Hooghly Training School boarding-house, Head Master's quarters and Branch School, with the municipal main at Hooghly, was nearly completed. The construction of a residence for the Head Master of the Zilla School at Khulna was completed. For the Taki Government School land was acquired for the extension of the Hindu hostel, and a Muhammadan hostel was constructed. The works of

providing additional accommodation in the Government School at Taki and constructing an additional hostel for the students were in progress. The improvements to the *Guru*-training schools at Joynagar and Kulpi were completed and the improvements to the *Guru*-training School at Diamond Harbour were in progress. The following works were completed in the Northern Circle :—Construction of godowns over the existing kitchen attached to the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong ; the new school buildings and hospital for St. Paul's School, Darjeeling ; Bayley Gobindalal Technical School, Rangpur ; the extension of the Zilla School, Rangpur ; the High School, Jalpaiguri ; the Shibbati Santibala Model Girls' School at Bogra ; the extension of Muhammadan and Hindu hostels attached to the Malda Zilla School ; *Guru*-training schools at Bogra, Nilphamari, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Pabna ; and hostels for the Muhammadan boys of the Pabna Zilla School. The improvement to the sanitation of the Dow Hill Girls' School and the Victoria Boys' School at Kurseong were nearly completed. The construction of a hostel for the Rajbanshis, Rangpur Zilla School, was finished except a drain and a few other petty items. The main building for the Physical Laboratory, Rajshahi College, was completed, except the electric installation. An installation of electrical lights and fans was provided in the Training College and Practising School at Dacca and connected with the Dacca Electric Supply Company's mains. The restoration and repair of an old residence and the old gateway in the Bidhanpalli area now added to the Dacca College as a College Museum were completed. The construction of a *Guru*-training School at Mymensingh was in progress. A *Guru*-training School at Cheria and a Muhammadan hostel for the Middle English School at Cox's Bazar were completed. The construction of the Dr. Khastagir's double-storeyed Girls' School and hostel with out-offices at Chittagong was nearing completion. The three-storeyed Central Muhammadan hostel with out-offices at Chittagong was completed. The *Guru*-training schools at Kaliajuri and Aliganj were almost completed. A barrack for 4 teachers and the Sub-Inspector of Schools at Rangamati was nearly completed. The construction of a Physical Laboratory for the new Dacca University was started and foundations and plinth completed. The construction of a dining hall and kitchen for the new College of the Dacca University was commenced and built up to plinth level when the work was temporarily suspended.

In addition to the above a very large number of grant-in-aid buildings were designed in detail and supervised by the Public Works Department.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

426. A Plague ward in the compound of the Campbell Hospital at Sealdah was built. Quarters for the staff nurses were built on the roof of the first floor of the existing nurses' quarters in the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital at Bhowanipur. A fire service and an electric installation were provided in the European Lunatic Asylum at Bhowanipur. The construction of a new special ward for female inmates in the Albert Victor Leper Asylum at Gobra was in progress. Land was acquired for the new Eye Hospital, Medical College, Calcutta The School of Tropical Medicine was completed except the out-houses, which were not started pending the acquisition of a portion of Medical College Street. The new Diptheria Ward on the roof of the Medical College Hospital, the electric installation and alteration to the lift for the Diptheria ward were completed. The rearrangement of the electric installation and the provision of additional lights and fans in the Isolation Block of the Medical College Hospital was completed. Mortuaries at Midnapore and Jalpaiguri were completed. The construction of an office and godown for the Civil Surgeon at Dinajpur was completed.

Registration.

427. The construction of the Sub-Registrar's office and quarters at Diamond Harbour was completed. The work of re-roofing the 2nd Officer's quarters at Contai to be used as a Sub-Registry office was completed. The Sub-Registry offices at Bera, Katheadi and Monochardi were completed. The extension of the Sub-Registry offices at Bogra, Noakhali and Palashbari and the alterations to the Registration Office at Comilla were in progress. The dispensary building at Gaibandha was purchased for the Sub-Registry office there. The extension of the Sadar Registration office at Dacca was completed. The extension of the Khas Mehal office at Khanjanpur for the accommodation of the Sub-Registry office was in progress.

Miscellaneous.

428. The compound of the Bengal Veterinary College, Belgachia, was partly raised. The construction of an office, godown, dispensary, two isolation cattle sheds, an ambulance shed and the improvements to the filtered water-supply in the compound of the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgachia were started. A road was constructed along the west side of the Calcutta Club in the Porabazar land at Bhowanipur. The construction of a new museum in the Pleasance Garden, Darjeeling, was completed except the final coat of paint and the show cases. The work of draining the land acquired and laid out for the residences for officers at Barisal was in progress. The construction of a double-storeyed "Chummery" for junior officers stationed at Barisal was completed except the compound fencing. At Rangamati a residence was constructed for the District Engineer.

Public Works Department buildings.

429. Land was purchased from the Official Trustee of Bengal for the construction of quarters for two European Public Works Department Subdivisional Officers at Alipore, the quarters were taken in hand and nearly finished. The additions and alterations to the Executive Engineer's office at Berhampore were completed. The construction of the Public Works Department godown, Subdivisional office and the quarters for the Subdivisional Officer and Sub-Overseer at Darjeeling and the quarters for the Subdivisional Officers at Jalpaiguri and Rangpur were completed. The extension of the Executive Engineer's office at Rajshahi and improvements to the Executive Engineer's residence at Jalpaiguri were also completed. The Sub-Overseers' quarters at Dinajpur and Balurghat, the Subdivisional Officer's quarters at Pabna, the Executive Engineer's quarters at Rajshahi and the Public Works Department office at Rangpur were almost completed. The construction of a residence for the Executive Engineer of the Bakarganj Division at Barisal was in hand and good progress was made.

Contribution works.

430. A new operation-room was built and certain additions and alterations were made to the Charitable Dispensary at Barasat. The erection of a new chapel in the Presidency General Hospital at Bhowanipur for the service of the Church of England was commenced. Electric installations in the Exhibition Room and in the quarters of the Art Expert in the Victoria Memorial Exhibition at Belvedere were completed. The installation of additional electric lights and changing the main distribution board for fans in St. Andrew's Church were completed. The Infectious Diseases Ward and the Nurses' Home for Mitford Hospital, Dacca, were in progress.

Archæological works.

431. The Mosque of Murshid Kuli Khan was repaired, and the tombs of the Burmese Prince and Princess at Berhampore were practically rebuilt and a new enclosure wall and gate constructed. Thorough repairs to the Sareswar Temple in Dehar near Vishunpur, at Bankura, were completed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Jessore.

432. The metalling of the Calcutta-Jessore Road (13¼ miles) was completed. The floor of the Jessore Dâk Bungalow was paved and certain other improvements carried out.

The land on the sides of the Calcutta-Jessore Road was also demarcated with stone boundary pillars.

Burdwan.

433. The widening of the metalled portion of the Grand Trunk Road from 8 to 12 feet between miles 125 and 149 in the Asansol Subdivision was begun and materials collected.

Dinajpur.

434. The work of metalling 4¾ miles of Hilli-Balurghat Road from the 8th mile post to the upper end of the existing metalling in the 13th mile was in progress.

The construction of a steel pile bridge on the Jamuna river at Hilli was commenced. Materials were collected at site of work and most of the pile driving done.

Darjeeling.

435. The widening of the last three miles of the Tista Valley Road was completed, except works on 30th mile, 2nd quarter, where the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway work was going on.

Metal was collected for metalling the Sukna-Adalpur Road.

The following works were taken in hand and completed :—

(1) Remodelling drain on the Hill Cart Road, Kurseong.
(2) Cutting a trace for the survey of a mule road from Kalimpong to Pedong.
(3) Providing municipal pattern iron railing to Calcutta Road.
(4) Remodelling side drains of the Rangit Road within the Darjeeling Municipality.
(5) Reconstructing the stable attached to the Kalijhora Bungalow.

436. The progress in construction of new roads and metalling existing roads was better than was expected in consideration of the unhealthy climate, difficulty in obtaining carts and getting materials owing to the short supply of railway waggons and to the war delaying supply of joists of large section from England. Jalpaiguri.

Materials were collected for the construction of Inspection Bungalows at Lankapara and Gairkatta and work was started on those at Dalgaon, Hathipotha and Samuktolla, the out-houses of the last being nearly finished.

The Inspection Bungalow at Nagrakatta was improved to make it fit for the temporary residence of a married Assistant Engineer.

The construction of the following bridges was commenced and progress made as noted below :—

(1) Bridge over the Ghatia river on the Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road—the abutments completed and piers nearly completed.
(2) Bridge over the Jainti river on the Jainti-Dhowla Road—the western abutment and pier commenced.
(3) Bridge over the Dudua river on the Gairkatta-Dhupguri Road—the steel piers completed.
(4) Bridge over the Gadadhar river and that on the 7th mile of the Alipur-Kumargram Road—materials collected.
(5) Bridge over the Jaldhaka river on the Tandu Forest Road—trial pit dug.

Experimental excavations were made in the beds of the Kuji-Daina and Murti rivers where there are to be bridges about 240 and 400 feet long respectively.

The following roads were taken up during the year :—

(1) Jainti-Dhowla Road.—First mile, collection of stone nearly completed, rest, about 10 per cent ; no earthwork done.
(2) Dalgaon-Lankapara Road, 1st Section, 4 miles—Earthwork about two-thirds done ; metalling and soling nearly half done.
2nd Section, 5 miles—Collection of metal and soling commenced.
(3) Gairkatta-Binaguri Road—Was about three-fourths completed.
(4) Banarhat-Chamurchi Road.—Work was more than three-fourths completed.
Banarhat-Chamurchi connection to station.—Work about three-fourths done.
(5) Gairkatta-Dhupguri Road.—Bricks for soling and metalling for all but 1½ mile were burnt and soling and metalling spread for about one-third of the length.
(6) Chalsa-Latiguri Road.—Metalling was laid on six miles and for the remainder more than half collected ; earthwork about half done.
(7) Tandu Forest Road.—Soling, metalling and earthwork completed throughout, except the approaches to Murti and Jaldhaka bridges. Consolidation about three-fourths done.
(8) Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road, 1st Section (up to Ghatia river).—Laying of soling and metalling was three-fourths completed. Earthwork nearly all done.
Nagrakatta-Chengmari Road, 2nd Section (Ghatia river to Chengmari).—Collection of soling and metalling completed in all miles.
Laying of soling and metalling more than half done. Earthwork about three-fourths completed.

(9) Alipur-Kumargram Road, first 3 miles.—Soling nearly all collected, metal about half collected, earthwork completed.
Alipur-Kumargram Road, 2nd section (4th to 12th miles).—About 25 per cent. of soling collected and a small quantity of metal.
Flank filling in these miles completed.

Dacca. 437. The construction of an Inspection Bungalow at Munshiganj was nearly completed at the close of the year.

Chittagong. 438. Three miles of the Strand Road at Chittagong were metalled and the Agrabad Road improved, widened and remetalled with stone.

Materials were collected for metalling miles 96-98 of the Chittagong Trunk Road near Comilla.

Improvements were made to the bridges at Jinglatalee at the 119th and at Pennai at the 120th mile of the Chittagong Trunk Road to give facility to boat traffic.

Chittagong Hill Tracts. 439. The widening and construction of bridges on the Rangamati-Mahalsory Road in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were completed.

A rest-house was erected at Maniksory on the Rauzon Road.

ARBORICULTURE.

Arboriculture. 440. Arboricultural operations along roads in charge of the Public Works Department were carried out as far as funds were available.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta. 441. A combined latrine and urinal was constructed at the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan for the use of the public and the old urinal was demolished.

The tank at the south-west corner of the old Presidency Jail on the Calcutta Maidan was filled in and turfed.

Howrah. 442. The filling in a tank on the south and adjoining the old Police Barracks, Sibpur, was carried out.

Jalpaiguri. 443. The reclamation of the marshy land near Karla cart bridge was in progress and the construction of a foot-bridge over the Karla river was started.

Hooghly. 444. The extension of the revetment of the left bank of the Darkeswar river at Arambagh was commenced and three-fourths done.

Dacca. 445. To improve the waterway to Munshiganj, which was only navigable during the rains, the *khal* lying between the Munsif's Court and the new Civil Court at Munshiganj, was diverted.

Noakhali. 446. The erosion of the coast at Noakhali by the river Megna continued. Observations of the changes in the coast-line and of the deep water channels and *chars* were carried out during the year. The results of observations indicate that the town of Noakhali is still in danger, but at the present rate of erosion the river will not reach the town for several years. Hopes for the safety of the town have not been abandoned.

Bakarganj. 447. The erosion of the bank at Barisal was slight during the year. The protective spurs and groynes are being maintained.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

Calcutta. 448. The memorial statues of Lord Kitchener, late Commander-in-Chief in India, and of Lord Minto and Lord Ripon, the late Viceroys and Governors-General in India, were erected on the Calcutta Maidan alongside the Red Road.

Darjeeling. 449. The re-erection of Singbally suspension bridge was in progress.

The following works which were commenced last year were completed :—

(*a*) Water-supply to the Sukiapukri Bazar.
(*b*) Improvements to the water-supply, Kalimpong Bazar.
(*c*) Improvements to the water-supply to the Lower Homes at Kalimpong.
(*d*) Dismantling the existing bridge over the Chenga river and re-erecting a portion of the bridge over Bone river on road No. 32.

Railways.

Administration.

450. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. With the exception of the following private lines of local importance, which are subject to a certain measure of control by this Government, all the important lines are under the direct administration of the Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board) :—

	Gauge. Ft.	In.	Miles.
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2	0	51·00
(2) Tarkeswar-Magra Railway	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah-Amta Light Railway ...	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway ...	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ...	2	6	52·24
(6) Jessore-Jhenidah Railway	2	6	36·80
			236·93

Mileage.

451. During the year 1914-15, 118·60 miles of new railway lines were opened for traffic. The additional mileage was made up as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard (5′ 6″) gauge.	
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Dum-Dum Junction to Canal Junction ...	1·66
Hardinge Bridge—	
Bhairamara to Shakhole	14·22
Sara-Santahar Extension—	
Shakhole to Santahar	44·63
Metre (3′ 3⅜″) gauge.	
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Kandirpara Ghat line	5·90
Assam-Bengal Railway—	
Bhairab Bazar-Tangi Branch—	
Daulatkandi Ghat to Tangi	39·07
2′ 6″ gauge.	
Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway—	
Pattipooker-Belgachia Extension—	
Pattipooker Junction to Shambazar ...	1·12
2′ 0″ gauge.	
Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions—	
Kishenganj Extension—	
Matigara to Naxalbari	12·00
	118·60

With these additions the total mileage open on 31st March 1915 was as follows :—

	Miles.
Standard (5′ 6″) gauge	1,361·91
Metre (3′ 3⅜″) ,, ...	1,180·81
2′ 6″ ,, ...	157·55
2′ 0″ ,, ...	140·90
	2,841·17

Lines sanctioned for and under construction.

452. The following lines were under construction or sanctioned for construction during the year :—

Standard (5′ 6″) gauge.

	Single line (miles)	Second, third, etc., as the case may be (miles).
Eastern Bengal State Railway—		
New goods approach—		
Kankurgachi Road to North Sealdah	...	0·76 (third and fourth lines).
Jadabpur to Baruipur	...	10·65 (second line).
Ishurdi to Serajganj	49·91	
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—		
Bankura to Bhojoodih (only a portion of this line lies in Bengal).	...	51·25 (second line).
East Indian Railway—		
Toposi to Baraboni	6·41	
Burdwan to Kamarkundi	37·80	
Baidyabati to Bhadreswar	...	2·46 (third line).
Uttarpara to Lillooah	...	3·21 (third line).

Metre (3′ 3⅜″ gauge).

Assam-Bengal Railway—	
Daulatkandi to Bhairab Bazar ...	3·54
Ashuganj junction to Ferry Ghat ...	0·80
Bengal Duars Railway—	
Chalsa to Matelli	5·31

2′ 6″ gauge.

Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway—	
Ahmedpur to Katwa	32·19
Bankura-Damodar River Railway—	
Bankura to Raina	60·60
Burdwan-Katwa Railway—	
Burdwan to Katwa	32·69
Bengal Provincial Railway—	
Dasghara to Jamalpurganj	8·30

2′ 0″ gauge.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions—	
Sevoke to Teesta Bridge	17·38

Surveys completed.

453. The following surveys were completed during the year :—

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

Bongong to Satkhira, 5′ 6″ gauge, 27 miles.
Nabharan to Satkhira, 5′ 6″ gauge, 26 miles.
Faridpur to Madaripur *viâ* Bhanga-Bagmara, 5′ 6″ gauge, 41 miles.
Khoolna to Barisal and to Madaripur, 5′ 6″ gauge, 96 miles.

By Messrs. McLeod & Co.—

Kalighat-Falta Railway—

Kalighat (Majerhat) to Fatehpur, with a branch to Falta, 2′ 6″ gauge,26 miles.

Surveys sanctioned.

454. Authority was given to undertake the following surveys :—

Through State Agency—

Indo-Burma Connection Railway Survey—

A preliminary survey was sanctioned to ascertain the best route for a line of railway on the metre gauge to connect India with Burma.

To the Eastern Bengal State Railway—

Shamsi-Bonarpara Railway Reconnaissance Survey—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Shamsi or some other point on the Katihar-Godagari section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to Bonarpara.

Mymensingh District Railway—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned of the areas between the Jagannathganj-Mymensingh-Dacca Railway and the Brahmaputra with a view to framing proposals for a railway construction.

Pabna District Feeder Railway—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge to open out that part of the Pabna District lying between Ishardi on the Eastern Bengal State Railway to Sadhuganj on the Jamuna River.

To the Bengal-Nagpur Railway—

Contai Road-Contai Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Contai Road Station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Contai, a distance of about 35 miles.

To Messrs Martin & Co.—

Sainthia-Naya Dumka Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Sainthia on the East Indian Railway to Naya Dumka, a distance of about 41 miles.

To Messrs. McLeod & Co.—

Fatehpur-Falta Railway Survey—

A detailed survey was sanctioned for a line of railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Fatehpur to Falta, a distance of about 9 miles.

Jhenidah District Railway Reconnaissance Survey—

Reconnaissance surveys were sanctioned for the following lines on the 2′ 6″ gauge :—

(*i*) From Jessore to Bagmara, a distance of about 60 miles.
(*ii*) From Jhenidah to Madhumati, a distance of about 33½ miles.
(*iii*) From Jhenidah to Kaligunga, a distance of about 27 miles.

To Messrs. Ewing & Co.—

Dacca District Light Railway Reconnissance Survey—

A reconnaissance survey was sanctioned for Light Railways in the southern portion of the Dacca district,

The Hardinge Bridge.

Lines opened during the year.

455. The Lower Ganges Bridge project was first discussed about 20 years before it was finally sanctioned in 1908. The site adopted for the bridge near Sara was selected in that year by an Engineering Committee of which Mr. W. A. Inglis, C.S.I., the then Chief Engineer and the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, was President.

Mr. (now Sir) R. R. Gales was appointed as Engineer-in-Chief and the construction of the bridge began in the cold season of 1908-09. The object of the bridge is to link up the two portions of the Eastern Bengal State Railway separated by the Ganges and thus do away with the costly and inconvenient ferry arrangements which have hitherto afforded the sole connection between the two systems. The bridge was formally opened for traffic by His Excellency The Viceroy on the 4th March 1915 and with His Excellency's permission was named the Hardinge Bridge.

Sara-Santahar Broad Gauge Extension.

The project for extending the broad gauge line to the territory north of the Ganges was the natural sequel to the project for bridging the Ganges near Sara. Hitherto the unbridged Ganges formed the natural barrier between the standard and metre gauge sections of the Eastern Bengal Railway, connection between these two sections being maintained by costly and inconvenient ferry arrangements. As soon as the construction of the bridge was well in hand, steps were taken to lay a broad gauge track alongside the existing metre gauge line from the neighbourhood of the bridge to Santahar, a distance of 44·63 miles so as to allow of the simultaneous completion of both these projects. This idea was ultimately carried out and the line was opened for passenger traffic on the 5th March 1915.

Bhairab Bazar-Tangi Branch of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

This section completes the connection between Akhaura station on the Assam-Bengal Railway and Tangi station on the Dacca-Mymensingh section on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, between which no railway communication hitherto existed. It included a waggon ferry arrangement across the river Megna between Gauripur south of Bhairab Bazar, on the west bank of the river and Ashuganj, the terminus of the Assam-Bengal Railway to the east bank. The line runs through a densely populated and very fertile paddy and jute-producing country. The line will, it is hoped, help considerably in the development of the Port of Chittagong as it establishes through railway communication between that port and the town and district of Dacca.

Burdwan-Howrah Chord Railway.

Important works under construction.

456. This project was put forward with a view to improve the transport facilities between the Port of Calcutta and the railway lines on the west of the Hooghly. Work on the whole scheme has proceeded rapidly during the year, and it is hoped that the line will be opened to traffic about the middle of 1916.

Bankura-Damodar River Railway.

A concession for the construction of this line was granted to Messrs. McLeod & Co. under the Government of India's Branch Line (guaranteed) terms of 1913. The alignment starts at the southern end of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway station yard at Bankura and terminates at Raina on the river Damodar.

Sara-Serajganj Railway.

Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. and Killick Nixon & Co. obtained concessions for the construction of this line under the Government of India's Branch Line (Rebate) terms of 1913. The alignment starts from Ishurdi just north of the approach grade to the Hardinge Bridge and terminates at Serajganj, a very large and important jute trading centre.

Railways financed by private enterprise.

457. During the period under review, concessions have been granted under the rebate and guaranteed terms combined, to Messrs. Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co. and Killick Nixon & Co. for the construction of the Bhairab Bazar-Mymensingh Railway with branches. This line is of great importance to the Port of Chittagong as it will bring the port in touch with the rich and populous district of Mymensingh. Messrs. McLeod & Co. obtained concessions under the guaranteed terms for the construction of a railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Ahmedpur to Katwa. A concession was also granted to the Bengal Provincial Railway Company under the guaranteed terms for the construction of an extension of the Bengal Provincial Railway from Dasghara to Jamalpurganj, a distance of about eight miles.

Jessore-Jhenidah Railway.

458. This line was opened for passenger traffic in October 1913 as a railway under the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890, and worked by a Company, but subject to a certain measure of indirect control by the Government of Bengal by virtue of a 4 per cent. guarantee from the District Board of Jessore. Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co. were the Managing Agents as well as the contractors for the construction of the line. Owing to deficiency of ballast and inefficient maintenance the line had to be closed with effect from 1st August 1914, but it was reopened for passenger traffic on 1st September 1914, the date on which the Managing Agency was assumed by Messrs. Law & Co. who claimed to have been appointed Managing Agents in succession to Messrs. Khetter Mohan Dey & Co. whose partnership had been dissolved. Difficulties having arisen in connection with the alleged appointment of Messrs. Law & Co., the Managing Agency was transferred to Messrs. McLeod & Co. with the full consent of all parties.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial Service.]

Capital and Revenue Accounts.

459. The transactions of the Irrigation Department, Bengal Presidency, for the year 1914-15 are exhibited in the following statement so far as they relate to works of irrigation and navigation :—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1914-15.	Expenditure to end of 1914-15.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1915.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges ...	1,08,59,445	.....	1,08,59,937	(-) 492
Indirect charges ...	2,48,603	.....	2,48,678	(-) 75
Total ...	1,11,08,048	.....	1,11,08,615	(-) 567
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges ...	1,20,17,003	7,10,613	1,23,30,459	(-)3,13,456
Indirect charges ...	1,40,335	2,780	1,82,383	(-) 42,048
Total ...	1,21,57,338	7,13,393	1,25,12,842	(-)3,55,504

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

HEADS.	Receipts.	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works.	2,53,369	2,57,107	9,484	2,66,591	(-) 13,222
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	3,88,449	6,52,900	15,918	6,68,818	(-)2,80,369
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	21,403	98,085	7,741	1,05,826	(-) 84,423
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	19,739	68,215*	...	68,215	(-) 48,476

* Besides, Rs. 2,09,370 were spent chiefly on river improvement works on the Ganges, Dhaleswari, Buriganga and Bhagirathi rivers.

Irrigation.

460. The following statement shows the areas irrigated during the year as compared with the average of the triennial period ending March 1915 :—

	MIDNAPORE CANAL (MAJOR WORKS).			EDEN CANAL (MINOR WORKS).		
	Kharif, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif*, inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	79,842	1,230	81,072	24,743	255	24,998
For 1914-15	77,400	910	78,310	21,537	153	21,690

Lengths of canals.

461. The following statement shows the lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year 1914-15. These figures are identical with those reported in 1913-14 :—

	Midnapore Canal.	Eden Canal.
	Miles.	Miles.
Main canals, irrigation	53	27½
Branch canals, ditto	16·75	
Distributaries of above	254·54	17⅔
Navigable channels	69·75	...

Navigation.

462. The following statement shows the traffic on the navigable canals during the year 1914-15 as compared with the average of the triennium ending March 1914 :—

	MIDNAPORE CANAL.		HIJILI TIDAL CANAL.		CALCUTTA AND EASTERN CANALS.		MADARIPUR BHIL ROUTE.		NADIA RIVERS.	
	Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	For the year 1914-15.	Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	For the year 1914-15.	Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	For the year 1914-15.	Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	For the year 1914-15.	Average of the triennium ending March 1914.	For the year 1914-15.
Length of canal open ... Miles	69½	69½	29	29	1,115	1,115	21	21	503	488½
Receipts ... ... Rs.	39,674	36,871	49,076	28,857	3,89,214	3,00,611	1,02,758	64,790	28,916	15,699
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement ... Tons	398,101	367,290	198,575	129,109	1,077,636	782,028	279,869	253,339	156,096	83,584
Estimated weight of cargo ... ... ,,	88,726	76,947	75,671	43,525	687,743	521,242	254,295	152,245	110,014	60,155
Estimated value of goods Rs.	82,80,759	75,62,278	60,85,656	35,15,845	7,32,71,966	5,53,41,533	3,87,88,872	1,73,51,603	1,69,77,901	79,45,967
Estimated value of rafts ,,	13,684	5,174	15,597	6,073	59,559	41,236	11,286	4,797	49,490	25,068

463. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India, the discharges of certain streams as shewn below were observed during the year under review.

South-Western Circle.

The observed discharges of the Damodar River at the places indicated and of the Ajai River at Satkahonia were—

Damodar River.

Date.	Discharges in cusecs at—		
	Salalpur.	Jujuti.	Jamalpur.
24th April 1914	197	.....	.....
31st May „	.....	.....	201
31st July „	.....	11,422	.....
31st August „	.....	11,763	.....
23rd September 1914	.....	5,493	.....
7th October „	.....	2,416	.....
22nd „ „	.....	1,226	.....
31st „ „	1,002	957	1,115
15th November „	628	.....	.....
16th „ „	.....	.....	579
30th „ „	545	.....	.....
31st December „	378	.....	.....
16th January 1915	290	.....	.....
31st „ „	270	.....	.....
15th February „	.....	950	.....
16th „ „	1,081	.....	.....
27th „ „	.....	.....	190
17th March „	.....	.....	31
31st „ „	.....	.....	53

Ajai River.

Date.	Locality.	Discharge (taken by means of velocity rods) cusecs.
27th May 1914 ...	Satkahonia ...	4,588
26th June „ ...	Ditto ...	1,200
30th July „ ...	Ditto ...	1,686
26th August „ ...	Ditto ...	2,493
26th September „ ...	Ditto ...	3,089
12th October „ ...	Ditto ...	1,526
31st „ „ ...	Ditto ...	120
28th November „ ...	Ditto ...	111
25th December „ ...	Ditto ...	132
15th January 1915 ...	Ditto ...	41

Central Circle.

Name of River.	September 1914.				October 1914.			
	Maximum Discharge.		Minimum Discharge.		Maximum Discharge.		Minimum Discharge.	
	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.	Date.	Quantity.
District Birbhum—								
More	4th	8,102	21st	675	9th	2,037	28th	104
Bansloe	27th	5,446	21st	522	8th	1,857	21st	247
Brahmini	27th	4,450	20th	285	6th	2,069	29th	78

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

464. The classification of works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

Account—"*49—Major Works*"—In these are included the Midnapore and Hijili Tidal Canals. The latter is used for navigation only, while the former provides for both irrigation and navigation. The original Capital Accounts of these canals have been closed and all present capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor Works and Navigation." The Revenue Account is shown under "42—Major Works—Working expenses."

Account—"*43—Minor Works and Navigation.*"—(*i*) The works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bhil route. These are all for navigation. Under this is also included the Utterbhag Lock which has been constructed in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme. The work is wellnigh completed and will be for navigation only. (*ii*) The works for which only Revenue Acounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers, the Gaighata and Baxikhal, and portion of the Orissa Coast Canal which was formerly classed under (*i*). These are all used for navigation only. Under (*ii*) is also included the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which has been carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895. (*iii*) The works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept include (*a*) the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and (*b*) training works carried on the rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Dhaleswari and Buriganga.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary, which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapur Canal Capital outlay.

465. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital Account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year amounts to Rs. 83,09,132.

Floods.

466. There were no floods in the Cossye River during the year under review.

Rainfall.

467. The rainfall at Midnapore during the year was 59·21 inches against 65·16 inches of the previous year. It was sufficient and consequently the demand for canal water was moderate.

Irrigation.

468. The area irrigated from the canal was 78,310 acres against 80,179 acres during the year 1913-14. The decrease was chiefly under *rabi* (*boro*) irrigation.

The cash realization on account of water-rates during the year was Rs. 1,60,906, against a total demand of Rs. 1,61,521. The amount remitted or written off during the year was Rs. 370 only, as compared with Rs. 6,883 in the preceding year. The balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 245. The collection on this canal continues in a satisfactory state. The rate for long term leases was raised from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per acre with effect from 1st April 1905. The question of further enhancing the rate has been held in abeyance till 1916-17.

Navigation.

469. The navigation receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 36,871, against Rs. 40,471 during the year 1913-14. The decrease is due to depression in trade.

Financial results.

470. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,23,058 and Rs. 1,37,775, respectively, as against Rs. 2,09,967 and Rs. 1,86,405 in the preceding year. The increase in gross receipts is under "Water rates" and is due to the fact that the collection of water rates for *boro* irrigation for the season 1913-14 was made during the year 1914-15.

The decrease in working expenses is due to no heavy repairs being necessary during the year, also to the allocation of the establishment charges against the canal being less as compared with the previous year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

471. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital Account of the canal during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the

year amounts to Rs. 25,50,805. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 30,311 and Rs. 1,28,816, respectively, as against Rs. 36,405 and Rs. 1,22,747 in 1913-14. The result was a net loss of Rs. 98,505 against a similar loss of Rs. 86,342 in the preceding year. The decrease in "Gross receipts" was due to the fact that the traffic on the canal during the year was low owing to the failure of crops in the preceding year and to the closure of Range II at the beginning of the year. The increase in working expenses was chiefly on account of silt clearance of Range II of the canal.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals Capital Account.

472. Rupees 5,31,985 debitable to the Capital Account (direct charges) were expended during the year, inclusive of a credit of Rs. 91,850 on account of the hire of the dredger *Foyers* and a similar credit of Rs. 17,855 chiefly on account of sale-proceeds of the old Toll Collector's office at Beliaghata main road. The principal item of expenditure of the year was the purchase of the dredger *Alexandra*, the steam-tug *Dunnedaw* and two coal barges from the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities at a total cost of Rs. 6,14,000. A sum of Rs. 15,883 was also spent during the year towards the construction of five pontoons for the floating discharge pipe line of the dredger *Foyers*. Some outlay was incurred in connection with the work of demarcation of the Government land along Tolly's Nala from Hastings Bridge to Samukpotta. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year now stands at Rs. 87,56,680.

Navigation receipts.

473. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,00,611 as compared with Rs. 3,52,403 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,21,068 and Rs. 4,44,120, respectively, as against Rs. 3,76,010 and Rs. 4,00,177 in 1913-14, the result being a deficit of Rs. 1,23,052 against a similar deficit of Rs. 24,167 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts is chiefly due to depression in trade and a falling off in the imports of jute on account of the war. The increase in working expenses is due chiefly on account of dredging the Angeria Creek.

Madaripur Bhil Route.

474. The expenditure (direct charges) debitable to the Capital Account of the project was Rs. 1,42,836 for works only. This was incurred on (1) dredging the Lower Kumar River, and (2) constructing an embankment with sluices along the south bank of the channel. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to end of 1914-15 amounts to Rs. 33,80,445 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 34,32,491. A second revised estimate for the project providing for the Bhil Route embankment and sluices is now under preparation. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were, respectively, Rs. 67,381 and Rs. 2,24,698 as against Rs. 89,332 and Rs. 1,18,976 in the year 1913-14. The decrease in receipts is due to the silting up of the western approaches at Manikdah and Loop Channel, where about 2 miles were completely silted up, dislocating the traffic for some months. To remedy this, an embankment with sluices is being constructed on the south side of the channel, so that the entrance may be flushed with water from the Northern Bhil as soon as the Madhumati River commences to fall. The increase in working expenses is chiefly on account of heavy expenditure incurred in dredging the Manikdah Entrance Channel. The maundage of boats and steamers using the route was 4,110,615, against 5,912,325 of the previous year.

Gaighata and Baxikhal.

475. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 5,032 and Rs. 311, respectively, as against Rs. 4,244 and Rs. 298 in the previous year. The *khal* has been leased out for three years from 1913-14 at Rs. 4,025 per annum.

Eden Canal.

476. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 19,739 and Rs. 68,215, respectively, as against Rs. 32,765 and Rs. 39,799 in the year 1913-14. The decrease in receipts was chiefly due to failure of crops due to short supply of water in the Damodar river for which remission to the extent of Rs. 10,000 had to be granted, and partly to the non-renewal of lapsed leases on account of the uncertainty of the supply of water under present conditions

at the head sluice. To remedy this a new supply channel with a sluice and stop dam is being constructed at Jhanpur. With the completion of the new head works it is expected that the supply of water for irrigation and for domestic purposes will be considerably increased. The increase in working expenses is due to the construction of the supplementary works on which Rs. 19,719 was spent during the year.

Utterbhag Lock. 477. During the year a sum of Rs. 19,229 (direct charges) was spent on the Lock, which is being constructed on the Peali River at Utterbhag to give access to the channels of the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme to the boats coming from the Sundarbuns and eastern rivers. The work is nearly completed. The Lock was opened for traffic at the latter part of the year.

Investigations. 478. Surveys in connection with a new alignment for the Grand Trunk Canal (as an alternative to Mr. Lees' alignment surveyed in 1912-13), with docks at Maniktala and an outlet to the Hooghly along the north of Calcutta, were taken up during the year.

Surveys were also started in connection with the means of mitigation of floods in the Damodar by constructing reservoirs in the hills. A good site for a reservoir was found in the Barakar Valley, about 5 miles above Barakar.

Floods. 479. There were five floods in the Damodar, but they did no damage.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Nadia Rivers. 480. The approximate length of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers are as detailed below :—

	Miles.
Faracca Channel from the Ganges to Biswanathpur ...	25
Bhagirathi River from Biswanathpur-Bhagirathi entrance to Nadia	132
Bhairab-Jalangi from entrance to Nadia	163½
Mathabhanga from entrance to junction with the Hooghly	136
Hooghly from Nadia to Mathabhanga junction ...	32
	488½

The decrease in the length of the Bhagirathi (4 miles) is due to the change in the bed of the river near Dadpur.

No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 16,371 and Rs. 1,05,515, respectively, as against Rs. 24,828 and Rs. 1,40,060 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts is due chiefly to a falling off in the number of steamers and flats plying on the rivers on account of extensions of railway lines on both sides of the Bhagirathi, also to the shallowness of the rivers which do not allow of through traffic except during the rains and less traffic in jute and other commodities on account of the war. The number of boats using these rivers during the year was 9,964 as against 13,113 in the previous year.

A brief description of the rivers comprised in the Nadia Rivers system is given below.

Bhagirathi River. 481. This river is 157 miles long from the Faracca entrance to Nadia, the portion below Nadia to the mouth of the river Mathabhanga being known as the Hooghly. The first 25 miles included in the above length is a *sota* of the Ganges called the Faracca Channel, the next 68 miles from below Biswanathpur entrance to Dadpur is taken as Upper Bhagirathi, and the remaining 64 miles down to Nadia is called the Lower Bhagirathi. The Lower Bhagirathi is again divided into two reaches, namely, (1) the Upper Reach from Dadpur to Katwa, and (2) the Lower Reach from Katwa to Nadia. The Upper Bhagirathi was navigable for boats up to December 1914, the steamer service being maintained from 28th June to 3rd December 1914 between Jiaganj and

Calcutta and between Azimganj and Berhampur from 5th July to 30th November 1914. As regards the Lower Bhagirathi there was no complete stoppage of boat traffic between Katwa and Nadia. The steamer services from Calcutta to Katwa and Jiaganj commenced from 28th June 1914 and stopped on 3rd December 1914.

The number and length of shoals trained were 26 and 80,700 feet, against 37 and 122,900 feet, respectively, of the previous year.

The minimum depths of the river at the end of March were :—

Reach of River.	Least depth of water sounding.						Width of channel.	Remarks.
	1913.		1914.		1915.			
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.		
Entrance from Ganges ...	1	6	0	8	1	0	More than 25 feet.	No water in January and February 1915.
Thence to Geria ...	1	3	1	0	0	9		Channels deteriorating.
Geria to Jangipur ...	1	3	0	6	0	6		
Jangipur to Berhampur	1	0	1	0	0	9		
Berhampur to Katwa ...	1	3	1	0	0	3		
Katwa to Nadia ...	1	6	1	9	2	0		

Bhairab-Jalangi River.

482. This river is divided into three different parts, viz. :—

(1) Bhairab from entrance to Mukhtearpur.
(2) Upper Jalangi from Mukhtearpur to Gopinathpur.
(3) Lower Jalangi from Gopinathpur to Nadia.

Through navigation was maintained in the river from June to November 1914 and small local boat traffic throughout the year in the lower reaches. There were altogether 40 shoals as against 42 of the last year. Of these 20 shoals were trained.

Mathabhanga River.

483. The Mathabhanga bifurcates from the Ganges at a place about 5 miles above the village of Jalangi and falls into the Hooghly below Chakda. The portion of the river from the entrance to Munshiganj is called the Upper Mathabhanga, while that from Munshiganj down to Hooghly junction is called the Lower Mathabhanga River. The river was open for through traffic in June 1914 and continued open till the end of November 1914, but intermediate traffic was maintained throughout the year. The number and length of shoals trained were 4 and 5,000 feet against 6 and 7,050 feet length of the previous year. No training works are necessary for that portion of the Lower Mathabhanga which is under tidal influence from the Hooghly.

Ganges Training Works between Digha and Damukdia.

484. In the year 1914-15 Government again decided to continue the operations, and a steamer was chartered from the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, for the use of the officers engaged in supervising the Training Works. The number of shoals trained were 21, of which 4 were in Bengal and 17 in the province of Bihar and Orissa, against 5 and 15, respectively, in the previous year. The cost to Government for the season's operations was Rs. 33,347, against Rs. 33,577 in the previous season. In future the conservancy of that portion of the Ganges which lies in Bengal proper, *i.e.*, from Rajmahal to Damukdia, will be carried out under the orders of this Government, and the conservancy of the river between Digha and Rajmahal by the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Dredging the entrance of the Bhagirathi from the Ganges.

485. For some years past dredging operations have been conducted at the mouth of the Bhagirathi River at its offtake from the Ganges, where it opens out from a loop of the Ganges known as the Faracca Channel. This loop commences at Faracca and rejoins the Ganges about 4 miles below the offtake of

the Bhagirathi river. This Faracca Channel is fed by three entrances from the main stream, of which the first two dry up every year resulting in the Faracca Channel above the third entrance remaining a practically dead channel in the dry season; the third entrance also brings but little water. During the year under review the dredger *Nemotha* was chartered from the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited. She worked for 146 days and dredged a total length of 14,108 feet. Bandalling and scraping were also done. The operations were not successful owing to several adverse circumstances. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 16,925 during the season, against Rs. 9,300 in the previous season.

Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers.

486. Major F. C. Hirst, I.A., Director of Surveys, Bengal and Assam, was placed on special duty during the year to enquire into the condition of the Upper Hooghly and its feeder rivers. He has submitted an exhaustive report on the subject, and a Committee will be appointed (*a*) to examine the report, (*b*) to determine what conclusions can be drawn from it, (*c*) to formulate proposals for the systematic record and examination of such data as will indicate any improvement or deterioration in the head waters of the Hooghly, etc., and (*d*) to advise as to the action to be taken to maintain and improve the efficiency of the rivers in the interests of navigation, sanitation and drainage.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Training works on Ganges below Rampur Boalia.

487. Training works were carried out on the inner channel of the river Ganges at Rampur Boalia to improve navigation as well as sanitary conditions and the water-supply of the town. A dredger was also chartered from the Steamer Companies for the purpose. The total amount spent on the operations was Rs. 23,085. Out of this the Steamer Companies, the District Board and the Rampur Boalia Municipality contributed Rs. 7,500.

EASTERN CIRCLE.

Training works on Buriganga and Dhaleswari Rivers.

488. The work of improving the Dhaleswari and Buriganga Rivers for navigation and for the water-supply of the town of Dacca was carried out during the year, Rs. 26,500 being spent on dredging and Rs. 29,446 on bandalling the various shoals. The river Dhaleswari was open for light draft steamer traffic from Dacca as far up as Palora throughout the year, but from there up to Porabari, a steamer station on the Assam route in the Jamuna river, steamer traffic was suspended from 20th January to 3rd April 1915. The river Buriganga is open for steamer traffic only during the rains.

'Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1914-15.]

Expenditure.

489. The expenditure during the year on embankments, including the charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, was Rs. 9,45,708 and on drainage works Rs. 1,17,397.

Length of Embankments.

490. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government is 1,360 miles These embankments protect an area of 37,94,321 acres.

Floods and breaches.

491. There were no high floods in any of the rivers during the year and consequently very few breaches occurred in the embankments and no damage was caused.

Surveys.

492. A number of surveys were carried out during the year :—

(*i*) A survey of the Baxikhal and an escape channel north of Koria village on the Gaighatta *khal*.

(*ii*) A survey in connection with the proposed escape channel for flood water from the Cossye and Selye rivers across the Chetua Circuit to the Rupnarain.

(*iii*) A survey of the Hoorhoora *khal* for providing additional channel capacity for the escape of flood water from the Damodar into the Rupnarain.

(*iv*) An investigation was started in the catchment area of the Damodar river for locating suitable reservoir sites for impounding flood water of the river. A site was selected in the Barakar river catchment about 5 miles above Barakar and a complete contour survey completed.

All the above surveys bear on the problem of the best disposal of the flood waters of the Cossye, Selye and Damodar rivers.

A survey for a drainage scheme to deal effectively with the drainage of the flooded area in the Contai and Etamagra subdivisions of the district of Midnapur was completed and an estimate for the project prepared.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Bengal Drainage Act VI of 1880.

493. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapore and Barrajolla Drainage works were maintained at a cost of Rs. 15,716, against the average amount of Rs. 11,300 fixed for their maintenance.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act VIII of 1895.

494. The Magra Hât Drainage scheme which provides for navigation as well as drainage is the only work carried out under the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act. The scheme was completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 20,57,590, against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 20,73,091.

Works under the Bengal Embankment Act II of 1882.

495. The construction of a seven-vented sluice at Mahamaya in the district of the 24-Parganas and remodelling of the Bistoopur Zamindari Embankment were in progress and the drainage sluice at Allumpur was completed during the year. A large number of sluices in Schedule D embankments were efficiently maintained at the cost of estates benefited.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

A.—Gross Revenue.

Gross Revenue.

496. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial and Provincial Revenues) for 1914-15 as compared with that of 1913-14 :—

[The figures are in thousands.]

Receipts.	1913-14.			1914-15.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—						
I.—Land Revenue	1,23,29	1,56,99	2,80,28	1,27,45	1,55,15	2,82,60
II.—Opium	1,97,84	...	1,97,84	1,93,11	...	1,93,11
III.—Salt	1,30,42	...	1,30,42	1,40,25	...	1,40,25
IV.—Stamp	1,09,55	1,09,55	2,19,10	1,01,34	1,01,34	2,02,68
V.—Excise	...	1,53,89	1,53,89	...	1,53,75	1,53,75
VI.—Provincial Rates ...	...	1,31	1,31	...	1,70	1,70
VII.—Customs	3,48,60	...	3,48,60	2,88,40	...	2,88,40
VIII.—Income Tax ...	33,19	33,19	66,38	34,92	34,92	69,84
IX.—Forests	...	16,16	16,16	...	13,05	13,05
X.—Registration ...	...	20,16	20,16	...	18,13	18,13
XI.—Tributes	68	...	68	68	...	68
Total ...	9,43,57	4,91,25	14,34,82	8,86,15	4,78,04	13,64,19
XII.—Interest	11,95	4,30	16,25	11,79	4,14	15,93
Receipts by Civil Department—						
XVI.—Law and Justice—						
A.—Courts of Law ...	...	8,43	8,43	...	8,60	8,60
B.—Jails	...	6,72	6,72	...	8,32	8,32
XVII.—Police	...	1,57	1,57	...	1,77	1,77
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage ...	...	16,77	16,77	...	15,53	15,53
XIX.—Education	...	8,11	8,11	...	8,34	8,34
XX.—Medical	...	4,20	4,20	...	3,95	3,95
XXIA.—Agriculture	...	79	79	...	72	72
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	...	1,99	1,99	...	4,61	4,61
Total ...	...	48,58	48,58	...	51,84	51,84
Miscellaneous—						
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,80	39	2,19	1,88	57	2,45
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing...	1	1,38	1,39	1	1,46	1,47
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	46	7,69	8,15	43	6,53	6,96
Total ...	2,27	9,46	11,73	2,32	8,56	10,88
Irrigation—						
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	1,23	1,23	2,46	1,27	1,27	2,54
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—						
By Public Works Department.	2,83	2,82	5,65	2,43	2,43	4,86
By Civil Department	24	25	49	25	25	50
Total ...	4,30	4,30	8,60	3,95	3,95	7,90
Buildings and Roads—						
XXXII.—Civil Works—						
By Public Works Department.	74	4,34	5,08	57	5,63	6,20
By Civil Department	...	1,66	1,66	...	1,47	1,47
Total ...	74	6,00	6,74	57	7,10	7,67
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	—57,53	+57,53	...	—68,92	+68,92	...
Grand Total ...	9,05,30	6,21,42	15,26,72	8,35,86	6,22,55	14,58,41

The chief variations are explained in the entries on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

B.—Imperial Revenue and Finance.

497. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1914-15 as compared with those of 1913-14 :— Receipts.

Major Heads.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,23,29,429	1,27,45,347	4,15,918	...
II.—Opium	1,97,84,323	1,93,10,929	...	4,73,394
III.—Salt	1,30,41,435	1,40,25,260	9,83,825	...
IV.—Stamps	1,09,55,416	1,01,34,133	...	8,21,283
VII.—Customs	3,48,60,241	2,88,39,684	...	60,20,557
VIII.—Income Tax	33,18,958	34,92,305	1,73,347	...
XI.—Tributes	67,701	67,701	...	...
XII.—Interest	11,94,690	11,78,662	...	16,028
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,80,117	1,88,323	8,206	...
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	783	439	...	344
XXV.—Miscellaneous	46,012	43,447	...	2,565
XXIX.—Irrigation Major Works—Public Works.	1,23,290	1,26,981	3,691	...
XXX.—Irrigation Minor Works—Civil.	24,421	24,725	304	...
XXX.—Irrigation Minor Works—Public Works.	2,82,520	2,43,233	...	39,287
XXXI.—Civil Works—Public Works	73,405	57,091	...	16,314
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	—57,52,800	—68,92,319	...	11,39,519
Total ...	9,05,29,941	8,35,85,941	15,85,291 / 69,44,000	85,29,291

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes :—*Land Revenue*—Larger recoveries of survey and settlement charges. *Opium*—Reduced prices obtained at the sales. *Salt*—Larger realisation of outstanding balances of duty cleared in the previous year under the credit system and larger adjustments of salt credit accounts before due dates. *Stamps*—General depression of trade on account of the European war and the collapse of the jute market. *Customs*—Dislocation of India's foreign trade, cessation of imports from enemy countries and restricted imports from Europe owing to scarcity of shipping. *Income Tax*—Increased profits made by Banks, Jute and Coal Companies in 1913-14, which formed as usual the basis of the assessment in 1914-15, and partly to more careful assessment. *Interest*—Further growth of the sinking fund for the Kidderpore Dock loan, the interest payable to the fund being taken in reduction of interest receipts for the loan. *Superannuation*—Usual growth in the Civil Service pension fund. *Miscellaneous*—Smaller premia on supply bills. *Irrigation Major Works (P. W. D.)*—Improvement in the collection of water rates in the Midnapore Canal. *Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation* (P. W. D.)—Smaller navigation receipts in the Calcutta and Eastern Canals owing to the reduction in jute traffic, and in the Midnapore Bhil route owing to the silting

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up of the Manickdah Entrance Channel. *Civil Works (P. W. D.)*—Decrease due to Provincialisation of certain Imperial buildings. *Transfer between Imperial and Provincial*—Larger assignments to Provincial on account of grants to the Calcutta University for hostels and the Dacca University Scheme.

Expenditure.

498. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1914-15 as compared with those of 1913-14 :—

Major Heads.	1913-14.	1914-15.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	6,68,039	8,11,126	1,43,087	...
2. Assignments and Compensations ...	97,216	99,083	1,867	...
3. Land Revenue	20,95,083	22,88,754	1,93,671	...
4. Opium	24,129	22,272	...	1,857
5. Salt	3,14,935	2,97,122	...	17,813
6. Stamps	3,61,566	3,11,132	...	50,434
9. Customs	13,78,763	13,52,529	...	26,234
10. Income-tax	77,289	77,042	...	247
14 Interest on other Obligations ...	1,13,925	1,45,237	31,312	...
18. General Administration ...	4,73,817	4,80,466	6,649	...
23. Ecclesiastical	1,84,515	1,90,758	6,243	...
25. Political	5,400	5,400	...	...
26A Agriculture	25,770	...	...	25,770
26B Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	2,049	2,026	...	23
27. Territorial and Political Pensions	7,93,382	7,45,598	...	47,784
28. Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances.	16	...	...	16
29. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	38,591	37,758	...	833
30. Stationery and Printing ...	70,088	70,060	...	28
32. Miscellaneous	37,305	1,80,046	1,42,741	...
35. Construction of Protective Irrigation Works.	7,396	2,534	...	4,862
42. Irrigation Major Works—Interest on Debt.	1,97,928	2,04,433	6,505	...
Irrigation Major Works—Working expenses (P. W.).	1,48,891	1,28,865	...	20,029
43. Irrigation Minor Works—(Civil) ...	982	10,657	9,675	...
Ditto ditto (P. W.) ...	9,62,229	13,69,811	4,07,582	...
45. Civil Works (Civil)	5,000	5,000	...	...
Ditto (P. W.) ...	16,56,433	13,32,121	...	3,24,312
	97,40,740	1,01,69,830	9,49,332	5,20,242
Total ...	...	...	4,29,090	

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows :—*Refunds and Drawbacks*—Heavy payments of Drawbacks of Customs duty owing to the re-exportation of Java sugar to the United Kingdom. *Assignments and Compensations*—Larger payments of Malikana. *Land Revenue*—Expansion of Survey and Settlement work. *Opium and Salt*—Payment of owners' share of rates and taxes by the Public Works Department. *Stamps*—Smaller payment of discount on smaller sales and reduction in the cost of stamps and stamp paper under the new agreement with the contractors. *Customs*—Smaller payment of overtime allowances owing to slackness of trade. *Interest on other Obligations*—Growth of the General Provident Fund. *General Administration*—Larger payments of leave allowances. *Ecclesiastical*—Higher grade pay of Chaplains. *Agriculture*—Provincialisation of the salaries of the officers of the Civil Veterinary Department. *Territorial and Political Pensions*—The actuals of 1913-14 included a special payment of Rs. 40,000 to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad. *Miscellaneous*—Special expenditure arising from the war. *Construction of Protective Irrigation Works*—Smaller payments of allowances to District Board Engineers for preparation of Famine Relief programmes. *Irrigation Major Works—Interest on Debt*—Raising of the rate of interest from 3·3879 to 3·4992 per cent. *Irrigation Major Works—Working Expenses*—Smaller expenditure on the maintenance and repairs of the Midnapore Canal. *Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation (Civil)*—Special grant to the District Board of Bakarganj towards the re-excavation of the Damooda channel.

Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation (Public Works Department)—Special expenditure on the purchase of dredger for the maintenance of waterways and larger expenditure on silt clearance. *Civil Works (Public Works Department)*—Smaller expenditure on the construction of buildings.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs.

499. The gross revenue from Customs, including 1·60 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported into Calcutta amounted to Rs. 4,06,38,000, against Rs. 4,56,88,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 6,61,000, against Rs. 5,36,000, so that the nett revenue amounted to Rs. 3,99,77,000, representing a decrease of 11·50 per cent. and being the lowest recorded since the year 1911-12. During the first four months of the year the gross import collections showed a substantial rise, but with the outbreak of hostilities revenue fell, and for the whole year the gross imports decreased by Rs. 40·84 lakhs, exports also fell by Rs. 8·53 lakhs, the season having been disastrous.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 3,96·99 lakhs, of which Rs. 1,22·60 lakhs was yielded by salt alone (including the inland collections). The collections on account of other articles (except silver, petroleum and spices under which there were increases) fell by Rs. 63·17 lakhs. This was chiefly due to the decrease in the case of cotton goods (Rs. 18·71 lakhs), sugar (19·13 lakhs), metals other than silver (5·69 lakhs) and miscellaneous articles (Rs. 10,70 lakhs). The decrease in cotton goods was due to over-trading, while that under sugar was directly due to the war, owing to the diversion of Java sugar to the United Kingdom. Refunds and drawbacks increased from Rs. 5·36 lakhs to Rs. 6·61 lakhs or 23·32 per cent. In spite of large war expenditure no change was made in the incidence of taxation.

Nett Revenue.

500. The nett income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,89,30,580, against Rs. 4,40,31,548 of the previous year, representing a decrease of nearly 11·59 per cent. The nett income of the subordinate ports amounted to Rs. 16,82,509 as compared with Rs. 15,69,121 in 1913-14, representing an improvement of Rs. 7·20 per cent., which is to be attributed to salt import duty and *gola* rents.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

501. There were 416 cases dealt with under the Sea Customs Act against 672 in the previous year. Of these 252 related to under-valuation, including 9 cases in which action was taken under section 32 of the Act, but the goods were not taken over on behalf of Government. During the year there were several important seizures of cocaine, opium and feathers and the Preventive officers showed considerable spirit in effecting them.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

502. The number of cases of infringement under the Merchandise Marks Act was only 300 in the year against 1,170 in the previous year. The great fall in number is attributable to the decrease of imports in general and to the stoppage of imports from Germany in particular. Of the total number of cases 148 were in respect of false trade description, of which 50, 39, and 10 related to consignments from Japan, Germany and Holland, respectively. The penalties realised during the year amounted to Rs. 4,973, against Rs. 21,055 in 1913-14.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Administration.

503. There was a decrease in the operations under the salt credit system. Securities to the extent of Rs. 43,34,500 were deposited during the year against Rs. 50,16,500 in 1913-14. The quantity of salt issued under the system amounted to 92,20,683 maunds against 1,00,00,493 maunds in the previous year. There were 42 depositors during the year, 5 of whom closed their accounts, leaving a balance of 37 against 35 in the previous year.

Imports.

504. The total imports into Calcutta decreased by 33 lakhs of maunds or 23·3 per cent. With the exception of prize cargoes there was no importation from Germany since the outbreak of war. The importation of salt from Madras was probably due to lower freights being obtained during the last quarter, and this also explains the increase in imports from Aden. With these exceptions there was a large general decrease, which was particularly marked in the case of imports from the United Kingdom, Spain and Salif and was due to the shortage of tonnage and high freights.

There was a decrease of over 3 lakhs of maunds or 23·6 per cent. in the imports into the port of Chittagong. While imports from Aden increased by over 70 per cent. there was a decrease of 50 per cent. in imports of salt from Port Said. There were no imports from Spain or Massowah, owing to lack of tonnage, or from Germany, owing to the war.

Consumption and prices.

505. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the Presidency during the year 1914-15 was 78,04,469 maunds, exclusive of 60,95,166 maunds, the nett export by rail, road or river, but inclusive of 80 maunds reduced from saltpetre. The average price was 4 annas and 6 pies higher than in the previous year, which was due to the rise in the price of imported salt. The average wholesale price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta, exclusive of duty was Rs. 77-4-9, against Rs. 54-6-7 in the previous year. There was an upward tendency in the market prices of salt during the first half of the year, and after the declaration of the war prices went up abnormally, especially in anticipation of an enhancement of the salt duty, some transactions being 250 per cent. over normal during the last quarter of the year. In the port of Chittagong the rise in prices is also attributable to the general effect of the European war on the salt market.

Financial results.

506. As compared with 1913-14 receipts showed an increase of Rs. 9,83,387 or 7·5 per cent. and charges, an increase of Rs. 585 or 0·1 per cent. The nett revenue was Rs. 1,36,91,938, which was greater than that of the previous year by Rs. 9,82,802 or 7·7 per cent.

Trade in saltpetre salt.

507. The quantity of salt educed in the process of refining saltpetre was 24 maunds only as compared with 742 maunds in 1913-14 and the quantity of *Sitta* (impure salt) left in the course of refinement was 41 maunds against 925 maunds in the previous year. Eighty maunds of educed salt were sold during the year against 261 maunds in the previous year, the duty realised being Rs. 80 against Rs. 261 in 1913-14.

EXCISE.

[The Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Excise Advisory Committees and licensing Boards.

508. The system of Advisory Committees continued in force throughout the Presidency, except in the Calcutta district, for which Licensing Boards have been appointed. The Advisory Committees worked satisfactorily. Their recommendations which were confined to the number and location of shops were generally practical and usually adopted. The Calcutta Licensing Boards were constituted in November 1913, and they have since that time dealt with the proposal for two excise settlements. Their functions have, however, been somewhat limited. On the first occasion, in the year 1913-14. they had not to deal with the contentious subject of licenses for the sale of country spirit, as such licenses had been settled for two years from the 1st

April 1913. And when the proposals for the settlement of country spirit shops came up in the end of 1914, the Boards had not an entirely free hand. This was the result of the decision to separate the vend of country liquor from that of foreign liquor, and also the vend of foreign liquor for consumption on the premises from that of foreign liquor for consumption off the premises. This decision necessitated a revision of the previous arrangements as to the number and location of both classes of shops, involving a considerable reduction of the number of licenses of each kind. The Boards generally accepted the details of this revision which were worked out in the first instance by the Excise Department.

Revenue.

509. The total excise revenue for the year was Rs. 1,53,59,916, being a decrease of Rs. 28,101 on the figures of the previous year. The chief increase in receipts occurred under the head of " Opium " (Rs. 1,79,252), followed by "foreign liquor " (Rs. 65,760), *pachwai* (Rs. 44,282) and *tari* (Rs. 12,041). This was counterbalanced by a large decrease (Rs. 3,09,760) from " country spirit," and a decrease of Rs. 18,320 from *ganja*. The nett result was that the incidence of excise revenue remained the same as in the previous year, namely, 5 annas and 5 pies.

Country spirit.

510. There was no change in the system for the supply of country spirit during the year ; the whole of the Presidency is now supplied by the contract system. There was a reduction of 47 in the number of shops and consumption fell by 105, 241 proof gallons. This decrease was general through the Presidency except in the district of Birbhum, the Asansol subdivision in the Burdwan district, the old outstill areas in the Bankura and Midnapore districts and in Jalpaiguri, where consumption increased. The decrease was largest in Calcutta (29,746 proof gallons), followed by Dacca (10,389 proof gallons), Rangpur (9,585 proof gallons), Dinajpur (8,043 proof gallons) and the 24-Parganas (8,025 proof gallons). The decrease was due to two main causes—one administrative, the other economic. The administrative factor consisted in the measures taken by Government to check the growth of consumption by the increase in the rate of duty on country spirit in most districts, and in the maximum prices in Western Bengal and by the curtailment of the hours during which shops may remain open. The effect of these measures was, however, comparatively slight and, under normal conditions, consumption might have shown an inconsiderable decline. The outbreak of war was responsible, however, for a serious change in economic conditions, particularly among the labouring classes, which greatly affected the excise trade. Not only was there a dearth of employment, but the prices of food rose, and the margin for expenditure on luxuries was greatly reduced. The poorer labouring classes, who are the chief consumers of country spirit, were the greatest sufferers, and their condition is well reflected in the drop in consumption by about 30,000 gallons in Calcutta.

Out of the total decrease of Rs. 3,09,760 in revenue, that derived from duty which represents the decrease in consumption, was Rs. 3,07,577, while the decrease from license fees was Rs. 817 only.

Tari.

511. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of fermented and unfermented *tari* decreased from 1,884 to 1,744 or by 140, and the total receipts increased from Rs. 4,74,601 to Rs. 4,86,642 or by Rs. 12,041.

Pachwai.

512. The total number of licenses issued was 25,301 as compared with 28,029 in 1913-14. The revenue from retail license fees increased from Rs. 8,11,432 to Rs. 8,60,654 or by Rs. 49,222. As in the previous year the greatest increase was in Birbhum.

Foreign liquor.

513. The total number of licenses issued for the wholesale and retail vend of potable foreign liquor, exclusive of licenses for the retail sale of medicated wines and rectified spirit was 623, against 668 in the previous year. The total receipts from license fees amounted to Rs. 3,99,968 as compared with Rs. 3,77,075 in 1913-14. The receipts from duty on Indian-made foreign liquor were Rs. 2,75,464, against Rs. 2,32,597 in the preceding year.

Ganja.

514. The total number of licenses issued in the Presidency for the retail sale of *ganja* was 1,347 as compared with 1,403 in 1913-14. The revenue from license fees increased by Rs. 1,55,711, while that from duty decreased by Rs. 1,74,031, the result being a nett decrease of Rs. 18,320 in the total receipts. There was a nett decrease of 376 maunds in the quantity of *ganja*

consumed, the figures being 2,584 maunds 16 seers against 2,960 maunds 10 seers in 1913-14. The greater part of the decrease occurred in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions and in the plains districts of the Rajshahi Division. The high retail prices of the drug, which had followed the enhancement of the rate of duty from the 1st April 1913, were kept up by the enhancement in the license fees. The decreased consumption and the prospect of an enhancement in the duty led, however, to a great fall in license fees for the year 1915-16. The incidence of license fee per seer of *ganja* consumed was Rs. 17-4 and that of duty Rs. 15. The total taxation was thus Rs. 32-4 per seer as compared with Rs. 28-9 per seer in the preceding year.

Bhang. 515. The total consumption of *bhang* amounted to 671 maunds 25 seers against 714 maunds 13 seers in the previous year. The total revenue from both license fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,06,953 as compared with Rs. 1,07,468 in 1913-14.

Charas. 516. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of *charas* decreased from 40 in the previous year to 35 and the total revenue from Rs. 51,090 to Rs. 48,883. There was a fall of Rs. 13,650 in the receipts from license fees, while receipts from duty increased by Rs. 11,443.

Opium. 517. The system under which the issue of opium to retail shops is restricted to the estimated local demand continued in Hooghly, Howrah, the 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Bakarganj, Chittagong and in a few shops in Birbhum. The system was extended with effect from the 1st April 1914 to the whole of the Midnapore and Khulna districts and to a few shops in Nadia and Jessore. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 859, against 886 in 1913-14. The consumption of opium decreased by 156 maunds, the figures being 1,554 maunds 11 seers against 1,710 maunds 6 seers in 1913-14. The fall in the consumption was accompanied by a large increase of Rs. 1,79,252 in revenue, the total receipts being Rs. 29,22,324, against Rs. 27,43,072 in the previous year. This was entirely due to higher license fees, which were the results of the increased profits derived from higher retail prices in which there has been a general increase in most districts.

Cocaine. 518. The total number of licenses issued to chemists, druggists, qualified medical practitioners and dentists for the sale of cocaine were 220 as compared with 221 in the previous year, while the license fees realised amounted to Rs. 220, against Rs. 225 in 1913-14. Altogether 39 licenses for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision. Of these, 29 were for tea gardens in the Jalpaiguri district and 5 for charitable dispensaries in Calcutta. The abuse of cocaine still continues, and illicit traffic in Calcutta still gives cause for anxiety. It might have been anticipated that this traffic would have diminished with the closure, owing to the war, of the chief sources of supply. But this is not borne out by the statistics of offences for the possession and sale of cocaine. More than one-third of the total number of arrests made in the Presidency during the year was in connection with cocaine offences, the number being 1,356 as compared with 1,175 in 1913-14. The arrests made in Calcutta alone for unlawful possession of cocaine were 1,219 as against 1,051 in the previous year. The total quantity of cocaine seized in Bengal during the year under report was 62 lbs. 5 oz. 3 drams 20½ grains (avoirdupois) as compared with 85 lbs. 10 oz., 23 grains in the preceding year.

Excise offences. 519. The total number of persons arrested on charges under the Excise laws during the year was 3,935 as compared with 3,622 in 1913-14 and 3,589 persons were convicted against 3,325 in the previous year.

STAMPS.

[Annual Statistics of the Stamp Department for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue. 520. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts fell from Rs. 2,21,97,277 in 1913-14 to Rs. 2,05,04,470 in 1914-15, showing a decrease of Rs. 16,92,807 or 7·6 per cent. The decrease occurred both in judicial and non-judicial stamps and was principally due to the general depression of trade on account of the war. The charges during the year amounted to Rs. 5,37,485, against Rs. 5,54,201.

Judicial stamps.

521. The sale-proceeds from Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) declined from Rs. 1,37,60,789 in 1913-14 to Rs. 1,35,28,272. The decrease occurred in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions and counterbalanced the increase in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The decrease was principally due to the unfavourable condition of the jute trade on account of the war. The increase in the Burdwan Division was attributed to the institution of title-suits of greater value, to a larger number of civil and criminal cases and to the large amount of duty paid in a probate case. The increase in the Presidency Division was mainly due to payment of heavy administration duties by some large estates in Calcutta.

Non-judicial stamps.

522. The receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps declined from Rs. 73,97,101 in 1913-14 to Rs. 59,86,632. Though the greater portion of the decrease in revenue in 1914-15 occurred in Calcutta, the falling off was general throughout the Presidency and was ascribed to the general depression of trade on account of the war.

Sale of stamps.

523. The number of vendors who held licenses to sell stamps during the year 1914-15 was 5,232, against 5,105 in 1913-14; but the amount of discount allowed to such vendors fell off from Rs. 3,67,882 in 1913-14 to Rs. 3,13,343.

Deficient duty.

524. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 during the year fell from 2,234 to 2,002, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 14,287 to Rs. 13,661. The total number of cases decided by Revenue Courts, under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act, decreased from 2,913 to 2,806, and the amount of duty and penalty realised from Rs. 49,752 to Rs. 36,400. The figures indicate that the public is becoming better acquainted with the law and is taking greater care as to the value of stamps.

Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.

525. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 740, in which 758 persons were brought to trial and 731 convicted, as against 992 cases and 893 convicted persons in the previous year. The fines imposed, together with composition money, amounted to Rs. 4,469 as against 4,590 in 1913-14. The falling off was particularly marked in Calcutta. The amount of rewards paid to informers was Rs. 2,087 as compared with Rs. 2,375 in the previous year.

Working of section 19H of the Court-fees Act.

526. Enquiries were made in 88·5 per cent. of the cases of valuation of estates for the issue of Probates or Letters of Administration reported during the year. The corresponding percentage in 1913-14 was 76·5. The proportion borne by the deficient court-fees realised to the amount originally paid was 8·4 as compared with 7·8 in the previous year.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income Tax Department for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part IV(*b*)—Finance and Revenue.]

Financial result.

527. The receipts, charges and nett revenue under the head Income Tax during the year 1914-15 were Rs. 69,90,941, Rs. 1,70,755 and Rs. 68,20,186. The nett revenue showed an increase of 5·2 per cent. over that of the previous year.

Collection.

528. The total collections on account of the tax under all Parts during the year 1914-15 showed an increase of Rs. 3,49,890 or 5·9 per cent. over those of 1913-14. To this increase, Part I (salaries, pensions, annuities and gratuities) contributed Rs. 48,270, Part II (companies) Rs. 2,72,332, Part III (securities) Rs. 9,490, Part IV (other sources) Rs. 19,798.

The percentage of tax collected under each Part on the total amount of the tax collected during the year 1914-15 was as follows :—

Part I—Salaries and pensions, etc.	16·3
Part II—Profits of Companies	31·3
Part III—Interest on Securities	2·7
Part IV—Other Sources	49·7

Assessments.

529. The total number of persons finally assessed in 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 54,176 showing an increase of 2·5 per cent. over the figures for 1913-14, whilst the final demand showed an increase of 7 per cent. over the figures for 1913-14. Of the total increase in demand, Calcutta contributed 79 per cent. The increase was largely due to the increased profits made by

banks, jute and coal companies in their working in 1913-14, which formed the basis of the assessment in 1914-15. Part of the increase was also due to the employment of larger establishments by the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Companies, as well as to more careful assessment in the districts.

Incidence of tax.

530. Excluding Calcutta only one person in every 1,397 of the population paid income-tax and the average amount paid by each assessee was Rs. 55. In Calcutta, the proportion was one person in 54 and the average tax paid Rs. 210.

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report—Forests.]

C.—Revenue and Finance other than Imperial.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Receipts and expenditure.

531. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1914-15 as compared with those of 1913-14 :—

(The figures are in thousands of rupees.)

RECEIPTS.	Actuals. 1913-14.	Actuals. 1914-15.	EXPENDITURE.	Actuals. 1913-14.	Actuals. 1914-15.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—			Direct demand on the revenues—		
I.—Land Revenue	1,56,99	1,55,15	1. Refunds and Drawbacks	1,36	1,94
IV.—Stamp	1,09,55	1,01,34	2. Assignments and Compensations ...	27	34
V.—Excise	1,53,89	1,53,75	3. Land Revenue	34,41	37,46
VI.—Provincial Rates	1,31	1,70	6. Stamps	3,82	3,11
VIII.—Income Tax	33,19	34,92	7. Excise	6,26	7,18
IX.—Forests	16,16	13,05	10. Income Tax	77	77
X.—Registration	20,16	18,13	11. Forest	6,40	6,71
			12. Registration	11,27	11,17
Total ...	4,91,25	4,78,04	Total ...	64,36	68,68
XII.—Interest	4,30	4,14	13. Interest on ordinary debt	4,40	4,40
			Salaries and expenses of Civil Department—		
			18. General Administration	24,30	24,11
Receipts by Civil Department—			19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	1,00,38	1,03,78
XVI.—Law and Justice—			19. Law and Justice { Jails	22,63	23,51
A.—Courts of Law	8,43	8,60	20. Police	94,71	1,03,96
B.—Jails	6,72	8,32	21. Ports and Pilotage	14,28	13,31
XVII.—Police	1,57	1,77	22. Education	81,13	92,07
XVIII.—Ports and Pilotage	16,77	15,53	24. Medical	28,50	30,16
XIX.—Education	8,11	8,34	25. Political	33	18
XX.—Medical	4,20	3,95	26A. Agriculture	9,07	10,22
XXIA.—Agriculture	74	72	26B. Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	5,19	5,16
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	1,99	4,61	Total ...	3,80,52	4,06,46
Total ...	48,58	51,84	Miscellaneous—		
			29. Superannuation, etc.	31,00	31,99
Miscellaneous—			30. Stationery and Printing	14,85	12,70
XII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	39	57	32. Miscellaneous	5,87	4,38
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,38	1,46	Total ...	51,72	49,07
XXV.—Miscellaneous	7,69	6,53	Famine Relief and Insurance—		
			33. Famine Relief	...	...
Total ...	9,46	8,56	36. Reduction or Avoidance of debt ...	60	60
Irrigation—			Railway (Revenue Accounts)—		
			40. Subsidized Companies Land, etc. ...	1	...
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	1,23	1,27	Total ...	61	60
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			Irrigation—		
By Public Works Department.	2,83	2,43	42. Major Works—		
By Civil Department ...	24	25	Working expenses	1,49	1,29
Total ...	4,30	3,95	Interest on debt	1,70	1,75
			43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
Buildings and Roads—			By Public Works Department ...	9,62	13,70
XXXII.—Civil Works—			,, Civil Department	1	11
			Total ...	12,82	16,85
By Public Works Department.	4,34	5,63	Buildings and Roads—		
By Civil Department	1,66	1,47	45. Civil Works—		
Total ...	6,00	7,10	By Public Works Department ...	76,44	1,00,51
			,, Civil Department ...	25,74	23,92
Transfer between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.	+57,53	+68,92	Total ...	1,02,18	1,24,43
Total Receipts ...	6,21,42	6,23,55	Total charges ...	6,16,61	6,70,49

Receipts.

532. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was chiefly owing to the collapse of the jute market and the failure of the winter rice crop in the Eastern districts which materially reduced the collections from Government estates. The variations under the head *Stamps*, *Income Tax*, *Irrigation—Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Excise* was due to the diminished consumption of opium and *ganja* as a result of the economic depression created by the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, while the increase under *Provincial Rates* was due to the realisation of arrears of the Public Works cess. The decrease under *Forests* was due to a slump in the timber market, while that under *Registration* was mostly caused by the dislocation of trade and business brought about by the war. The decrease under *Interest* was due to short collections from landlords and notabilities, while the increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* occurred chiefly under magisterial fines. The increase under *Jails* was contributed partly by larger sale proceeds of jail-made quinine packets and tabloids, the sales of which were stimulated by an unhealthy season and the growing popularity of the jail products, and partly by larger supplies of gunnies and other manufactures to the Military Department. A part of the increased receipts on the former account was due to a change in the proportion (viz., from 1 : 4 to 2 : 3) in which the sale proceeds of pice-packet quinine were credited between this head and the Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments and to the credit under this head of $\frac{2}{3}$ths share of quinine treatments sold by Civil Surgeons which in previous years was wholly credited to *Medical*. This also explains the corresponding decrease under *Medical*. The increase under *Police* was caused by larger recoveries on account of punitive police and other miscellaneous receipts, while the decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to slackness of shipping in the year on account of the war. The usual growth in the number of students in Government colleges and schools generally accounts for the increase under *Education*, while the increase under *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments* was mostly due to larger sales of quinine sulphate and also for credit under this head of $\frac{2}{3}$ths share of quinine treatments sold by Civil Surgeons which had hitherto been wholly credited to the Medical Department and to the transfer from *Registration* to this head of fees for registration of Joint Stock Companies. The increase under *Superannuation* was mainly caused by special receipts on account of contributions of officers lent to the Sara-Serajganj Railway. The increase under *Stationery and Printing* was due to the sale of waste paper and other unserviceable materials from the Dacca Jail Press on its removal to Gaya, while the decrease under *Miscellaneous* was due to smaller credits on account of unclaimed deposits. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was mainly due to an additional credit of Rs. 89,000 on account of the Government share of profits on the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway owing to a change in the date of completion of the annual accounts of the Railway; it was also accounted for by the sale-proceeds of the old Presidency Jail buildings and the credit to Provincial instead of to Imperial Revenues of the rent of the premises at No. 9, Hare Street. The decrease under *Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers* was due to advance collections of ferry receipts in Mymensingh at the settlement of March 1914.

Expenditure.

533. The increase under *Refunds* was due to special refunds of Stamps, Excise and Income Tax, that under *Assignments and Compensations* to larger payments of "malikana", while that under *Land Revenue* was the result of the expansion of Survey and Settlement work and larger expenditure on improvements in Government estates. The variations under *Stamps* and *Irrigation—Major and Minor Works*, which are divided heads, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Excise* was due to the partial reorganisation of this Department and that under *Forests* to construction of buildings and other forest improvements. The decrease under *Registration* was on account of special expenditure on iron safes in 1913-14, that under *General Administration* to the reduction in the Board's establishment, and to special recoveries from Bihar and Orissa and Assam on account of the Joint Court of Wards establishment. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* was mainly due to larger payments of pleaders' and

Counsels' fees in connection with political cases and partly also to the strengthening of the judicial staff, the embargo on leave and the grant of minimum salaries to Indian Civil Service officers. The increase under *Jails* was mainly owing to larger expenditure on European stores, including machinery for making blankets in the Dacca Jail, and that under *Police* to an increase in the pay of constables and the introduction of other police reforms both in the Presidency and District police, to larger expenditure on surveillance of political suspects and to the reorganisation of the Military Police in East Bengal. The decrease under *Ports and Pilotage* was due to dislocation of trade caused by the war which reduced the earnings of the pilots, while the increase under *Education* was mainly caused by larger payments of grants-in-aid for school buildings and hostels out of the Imperial assignments and payment of arrear salaries owing to promotions. The increase under *Medical* was due to larger expenditure from special Imperial grants and to the refund of the special contribution of Rs. 50,000 made by the Indian Research Fund Association for jungle clearing, while the decrease under *Political* is explained by smaller expenditure on Durbar presents. The increase under *Agriculture* was mostly due to the expansion of the Department and the transfer of charges hitherto adjusted under Imperial to the Provincial account, and that under *Superannuation* to larger grants for commuted pensions and to growth in the pensionary charges. The decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was due to smaller supplies of stationery from Central stores owing to the abolition of the Dacca Jail Press and to the adjustment by reduction of expenditure under this head of the sale-proceeds of the machinery of that Press, and the increase under *Miscellaneous* was due to smaller expenditure on relief operations and smaller grants for charitable purposes. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was chiefly caused by larger expenditure on land acquisition and works from Imperial assignments for education and other objects, the adjustment under this head of the owners' share of taxes on Government buildings, the advance collection of road metal and improvements in the Duars roads. The decrease in the *Civil Department* is explained by smaller expenditure from the Imperial assignments for Sanitation.

Local Funds.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Balances.

534. The following statement shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the Province for the year 1914-15 :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	51,19,882	1,00,47,960	1,51,67,842	1,08,37,612	43,30,230
District Road Fund, Darjeeling ...	39,605	1,14,954	1,54,559	1,16,502	38,057
Union Funds—					
Birbhum	—7	6,250	6,243	5,793	450
Burdwan	339	831	1,170	1,090	80
Jessore	4,652	13,677	18,329	13,336	4,993
Nadia	416	1,363	1,779	635	1,144
Khulna	...	4,902	4,902	3,961	941
Murshidabad	...	892	892	343	549
Faridpur	...	1,855	1,855	1,855	...
Total ...	5,400	29,770	35,170	27,013	8,157
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	1,310	3,749	5,059	3,251	1,808
Barrackpore	9,409	55,428	64,837	57,537	7,300
Dum-Dum	4,802	22,526	27,328	25,327	2,001
Jalapahar	375	9,223	9,598	8,689	909
Lebong	1,592	11,485	13,077	10,929	2,148
Takdah	1,740	8,860	10,600	9,277	1,323
Total ...	19,228	1,11,271	1,30,499	1,15,010	15,489

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	4	4,141	4,145	4,145	...
Dum Dum	...	1 217	1,217	1,217	...
Total ...	4	5,358	5 362	5,362	...
Town and Bazar Funds—					
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar Fund.	6,662	6,111	12,773	5,060	7,713
Western Duars Market Funds, Jalpaiguri.	30,636	38,486	69,122	39,471	29,651
Total ...	37,298	44,597	81,895	44,531	37,364
Police Funds—					
District Chaukidari Reward Funds.	1,14,486	67,390	1,81,876	79,039	1,02,837
Foundling Asylum Fund ...	14	3,419	3,433	3,410	23
Fire Brigade Fund ...	37,875	2,45,683	2,83,558	1,97,405	86,153
Total ...	1,52,375	3,16,492	4,68,867	2,79,854	1,89,013
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	3,204	1,11,967	1,15,171	96,534	18,637
Hospital Port Dues (Chittagong).	4,126	6,112	10,238	5,495	4,743
Chittagong Port Fund ...	1,82,212	3,09,834	4,92,046	4,92,046	...
Total ...	1,89,542	4,27,913	6,17,455	5,94,075	23,380
Education Funds—					
The Presidency College Graduate Scholarship Fund.	5,598	4,752	10,350	7,753	2,597
Durga Charan Laha's Fund	...	2,790	2,790	2,905	—115
Total ...	5,598	7,542	13.140	10,658	2,482
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrim Lodging House Fund.	12,253	5,621	17,874	8,311	9,563
Bengal Famine Orphan Fund.	5,393	1,222	6,615	...	6,615
Ram Lal Mukherji Endowment Fund.	2,760	1,750	4,510	...	4,510
Joygobinda Laha's Fund ...	22,667	5,74	28,407	...	28,407
Imambara Hospital Fund ...	2,482	27,867	30,349	19,341	11.008
Chittagong General Hospital Fund.	8,125	22,572	30.697	23,029	7,668
Total ...	53,680	64,772	1,18,452	50,681	67,771
Public Works Fund—					
Darjeeling Improvement Fund.	51.571	1,05,498	1,57,069	91,127	65,942
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.	23,622	95,223	1,18,845	72,599	46,246
Zoological Garden Fund ...	21,792	76,411	98,203	83 732	14.471
Moshin Endowment Fund ...	7,366	1,35,86	1 43,227	1,26,705	16,522
Christian Burial Board Fund.	7,109	29,442	36,551	26,941	9,610
Muhammadan Burial Board Fund.	795	2 227	3,022	2,251	771
Total ...	60,684	3,39,164	3,99,848	3,12,228	87,620
Grand Total ...	57,34,867	1,16,15,291	1,73,50,158	1,24,84,653	48,65,505

Grants.

535. Eleven Union Committees in the districts of Khulna, Murshidabad and Faridpur opened banking accounts within the district treasuries during the year, while the Chittagong Port Fund ceased to bank with the Government treasury. In the absence of a separate district treasury the newly-created Dacca Cantonment Fund banked with the local branch of the Bank

of Bengal. This fund started with a grant of Rs. 1,112 from the Military Department, and the following grants were received by other Cantonment Funds :—

	Rs.
Jalapahar	4,520
Lebong	8,319
Takdah	5,052

The receipts of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, Calcutta, included Rs. 37,298 obtained by the sale of securities. The rate of the Port Dues has also been raised from 4½ to 6 pies per ton from the 7th December 1914. The Chittagong Port Fund obtained a Government grant of Rs. 1½ lakh, of which one-half was contributed by the Imperial Revenues. The designation of the fund hitherto called the "Hindu College Fund" was changed during the year to the "Presidency College Graduate Scholarship Fund." The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a Government grant of Rs. 1,017. There was no occasion for any expenditure from the Ram Lal Mukherji's Fund or Joy Gobind Laha's Fund. The Darjeeling Improvement Fund received a Government grant of Rs. 3,515 and also Rs. 8,194 from the Public Works Cess. Owing to the economic stringency brought on by the war the entrance fees of the Zoological Garden fell off from Rs. 61,053 to Rs. 45,991, while the other items of receipts also showed a similar reduction. The Mohsin Endowment Fund received an additional remittance of Rs. 10,000 from the Syedpur Trust Estates over and above the normal sum of Rs. 60,000 and also a Government grant of Rs. 20,421 for meeting charges on account of short fee payments of Muhammadan students. The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 2,227 from the Provincial Revenues.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1914-15.]

Rate.

536. Except in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Act is not in force, the Road and Public Works Cesses continued to be levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties.

Demand and collection.

537. The current demand of land revenue for the cess-paying districts is Rs. 2,73,51,621, and the annual valuation or gross rental on which the cesses are based amounts to Rs. 11,66,41,298. The land revenue thus works out at 23·4 per cent. of the rental. The current demand of the year under report showed an increase of Rs. 1,89,607. This increase was shared by several districts and was the result of valuations and revaluations and the annual revision of assesment of mines under section 72 of the Act. In the Presidency as a whole, there was a falling off in the percentage of collections from 100·2 to 96·9 owing mainly to the depression of the jute market in consequence of the war in Europe. The total outstanding balance of the year was Rs. 9,31,620 or 12·9 per cent. of the total demand against Rs. 7,80,281 or 11·1 per cent. in the previous year. The remissions decreased from Rs. 60,826 to Rs. 35,394.

Working of the certificate procedure.

538. The number of certificates filed for the recovery of cess arrears was 40,669 as against 43,916 in the preceding year. The decrease was most marked in Hooghly (1,779) and Chittagong (2,714). The falling off in the former district was due to the fact that in the previous year a large number of certificates had to be issued for petty arrears to save limitation. The total number of certificates for disposal in the Presidency, including 14,686 pending from the last year, was 55,355. Of these 42,151 or 76·1 per cent. were disposed of, leaving 13,204 as against 10,247 pending at the end of the year. The number of cases pending over 6 months was 1,228, of which Hooghly alone was responsible for 554. Payment was made in 11,203 cases on the mere issue of preliminary notices and in 27,336

cases on the issue of notices for the attachment and sale of the certificate-debtors' movable and immovable properties. Recourse to actual sale was necessary in only 687 cases out of 42,151 cases disposed of.

Valuation and revaluation.

539. Revaluation operations were in progress in Dacca, Faridpur, Rajshahi and Jalpaiguri under the control of the Settlement Department. In Midnapore revaluation by the Settlement Department under Chapter IIA of the Act was in progress in 4 *thanas*, but in the remaining *thanas* that procedure has been abandoned as unworkable. Revaluations on a large scale under the ordinary procedure were in progress in the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Khulna, Bakarganj (revision proceedings), Dinajpur and Tippera and, were brought to a close in all these districts except Khulna and Bakarganj.

Legislation.

540. The consideration of the Bill to amend the Cess Act has been postponed for the present in so far as its provisions relate to the surrender of the Public Works Cess. The other provisions in the Bill which have the effect of furthering the policy of decentralization have been incorporated in the Bengal Decentralization Act, 1915.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of this Report—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner Bengal, for the year 1914. Statistics of British India—Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

541. The total rainfall of the year was below the normal throughout the Province except in Darjeeling. The monsoon rains set in gradually about the usual time and good rains fell in July and August, but the rainfall for September was in defect, while during October the monsoon was very weak.

Birth-rate.

542. The number of births increased slightly and the birth-rate rose from 33·75 to 33·86 per thousand of population as ascertained at the last census. If, however, the birth-rate for 1914 be calculated on the actual population as estimated by adding the excess of births over deaths since 1911 to the census population, it becomes 33·22. It would, therefore, appear that the birth-rate was more or less stationary during the last two years.

Verification of vital statistics.

543. The registration of births in Eastern Bengal continues to be defective. The percentage of omissions to register deaths ranged from 5·71 to 13·79 in five districts. It is probable that many of the deaths recorded under "Fever" or "Other causes" should be recorded as due to respiratory diseases.

Death-rate.

544. The number of deaths increased by 99,421, while the death-rate rose from 29·38 to 31·57 calculated on the basis of the census figures. When calculated on the estimated actual population, the death-rate for 1914 becomes 30·97. The increase in mortality, which was chiefly under the head "Fever," reduced the excess of births over deaths by nearly 50 per cent. Infantile mortality was high in several districts, and the total death-rate increased from 20·95 to 22·14 per cent. of the births. Although Calcutta returned a higher infantile death-rate it no longer headed the list, the first three places being occupied by Birbhum, Nadia and Pabna.

Fever.

545. There was a considerable rise in the mortality from fever. The number of deaths due to this cause increased from 965,546 to 1,061,041, the death-rates per mille for 1914, 1913 and the quinquennial period 1909-13 being 23·40, 21·30 and 20·54, respectively. Seventy-four per cent. of the total mortality, as against 72 per cent. in the previous year, was registered under this head. The lowest rates were as usual returned by the urban areas where the death-rate continues to decline.

Malaria.

546. Anti-malarial measures were carried out in a few towns, and quinine was freely distributed in a number of districts by Sub-Assistant Surgeons from the middle of August. It is gratifying to observe that the efforts of the Malaria Committee to popularise quinine appear to be meeting with success, and there was a considerable demand for quinine in the "treatment" form in which it is now sold. The sale of quinine in this form has nearly doubled since August 1913. Quinine was distributed free to school children in the Hooghly district through the agency of the Education Department, and some District Boards spent considerable sums in the purchase of quinine for free distribution. The necessity for administering adequate doses of quinine to patients attending dispensaries was brought to the notice of District Boards and Municipalities, and assistance was given to a few of the poorer municipalities to enable them to purchase the requisite amount of quinine.

Provincial Malaria Committee.

547. Besides considering methods for inceasing the use of quinine, the Malaria Committee enquired into the malarious nature of Manikganj, and discussed the value of sub-soil drainage as an anti-malarial measure and the danger arising from borrow pits in proximity to dwelling-houses. The Committee decided that no benefit would accrue from jungle-cutting experiments for which the Indian Research Fund had made a grant of Rs. 50,000. It, therefore, put forward a proposal that this grant should be utilised in carrying out two experimental schemes of sub-soil drainage drawn up by Dr. Bentley. This proposal did not, however, meet with the approval of the

Government of India and the grant for experimental jungle-cutting was accordingly withdrawn.

548. The number of deaths from cholera increased from 78,898 to 89,224, the corresponding death-rates being 1·74 and 1·96 per mille. The average death-rate from cholera for the five years 1909-1913 was 1·98. The incidence of the disease was highest in the Murshidabad Circle, while the districts of Nadia and Malda also suffered severely. Cholera.

549. The mortality from plague continued to decrease, the number of deaths being 554 as against 984 in the previous year. Of these, 442 occurred in Calcutta. As no cases of plague were reported during November and December, Calcutta was declared to be free from plague in the latter part of December. Plague.

550. The death-rate from dysentery and diarrhœa decreased slightly. Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[The Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

551. The chief feature of the year was the effect of the war on emigration to the Colonies. There was little change in the demand for labour, but, as Government had chartered the emigrant ships for transport purposes, emigration had to be suspended from the month of August. It is not possible, therefore, to make any effective comparison of the results of the year's working with those of the previous year, nor to form any full judgment as to the working of the new measures introduced on the recommendations of Lord Sanderson's Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. The report of Messrs. MacNeill and Chimman Lal, is under consideration. Effect of the war.

552. Four emigration agencies were at work during the year 1914 as compared with 5 in the preceding year. Of these 3 represented British colonies, while 1 worked for the Dutch colony of Surinam. The requisitions for emigrants amounted to 5,132½ statute adults as against 5,167 in 1913, but owing to the suspension of emigration only 2,588 emigrants were despatched. The colonies of Fiji and Surinam secured a high proportion of their demand, but there was a large shortage in the supply to British Guiana and Trinidad. Emigration Agencies and despatch of emigrants.

553. The number of licenses issued to recruiters in 1914 was 643, or 568 less than in 1913, the decrease being partly due to the stoppage of recruitment during the latter half of the year and partly to the amalgamation of the agencies for the British colonies, as under the new arrangement only one license is required for the amalgamated agency instead of two as formerly. Thirty-five recruiters' licenses, including 17 granted in 1913, were cancelled during the year, of which 32 were cancelled for misconduct. In all 5,145 emigrants—4,026 less than in the previous year—were registered in 1914, the decrease being mainly due to the temporary stoppage of recruitment. Recruiting operations were conducted, as in the previous year, in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, Ajmere, the Central Provinces, and the Punjab. The majority (86·56 per cent.) of the emigrants came, as usual, from the United Provinces. Of the separate agencies Surinam shows the highest average, viz., 23 per recruiter as against 7 for Fiji, Trinidad and Demerara. Of the 5,210 emigrants admitted into the sub-depôts, 1,186 were rejected by the medical officers in the recruiting districts as unfit to emigrate, and of the remainder 3,837 arrived at the Calcutta depôts. This number was subsequently reduced by rejections, releases, desertion and other causes to 2,698, all of whom were embarked during the year under report. One hundred and thirty-seven or 5·34 per cent., as compared with 3·83 per cent in 1913, of the number shipped were returned emigrants. Recruitment of emigrants.

554. The sanitary arrangements in the depôts were satisfactory and there was a decrease in sickness amongst the depôt population. The percentage of deaths, however, rose from ·34 in 1913 to ·46 in 1914. The Sanitary arrangements in depots.

increase was due to an outbreak of measles in epidemic form in the Surinam Agency's depôt, which caused 7 out of the 18 deaths from all causes.

Returned emigrants and their savings.

555. During the year 2,961 emigrants left the colonies, of whom 843 brought savings amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 4,48,284. The remaining 2,118 emigrants, including 189 adults, are said to have returned empty-handed. The average savings per head of returned emigrants were Rs. 151-6-4 as compared with Rs. 181-3-9 in 1913. Remittances from emigrants resident in the Colonies showed increases in the case of Seychelles, Surinam, Fiji, Trinidad and Mauritius. Remittances from the last-named colony have been steadily rising and in the year under report amounted to Rs. 1·39 lakhs, or more than twice the amount sent in 1912. Natal still heads the list despite a fall of over Rs. 3 lakhs as compared with 1913, but the sums sent from that Colony probably include remittances from traders as well as from labourers. The average remittance per head of emigrant population, however, decreased in respect of all the Colonies, except Mauritius and Trinidad. The remittances from Mauritius and Fiji would have been larger but for the fact that many immigrants invest large sums in immovable property and livestock, and that many of them have settled down with their wives and children and are therefore under no necessity of sending money to India.

One hundred and fifty estates of deceased emigrants valued at Rs. 21,287 were administered by Government during the year. Of these the heirs of 84 were traced, 53 lapsed to the Colonial and Indian Governments, and the remainder were still under enquiry at the end of the year.

Financial.

556. The emigration accounts closed with a deficit of Rs. 18,021. This is mainly due to the cessation of receipts from embarkation fees during the latter half of the year.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June 1915 and the Report on the working of the Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912, for the year ending the 30th June 1915.]

Administrative measures.

557. The most important event of the year under report was the passing of the Assam Labour and Emigration (Amendment) Act (VIII of 1915), the chief objects of the measure being the abolition of the system of recruitment by contractors under Chapter III of Act VI of 1901, and the creation of a representative Board to exercise proper supervision over recruitment by garden *sardars* so as to prevent the recurrence in new forms of the old abuses connected with other systems of recruitment, and to advise Superintendents of Emigration on applications for local agents' licenses. The system of recruitment by contractors was actually abolished with effect from the 1st July 1915 by a notification, dated the 19th June 1915, issued by the Government of India. The Assam Administration also published a notification by which certain provisions of Act VI of 1901 relating to labour districts, which had, in 1908, been withdrawn from the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Kamrup and Goalpara, were now withdrawn from the remaining labour districts, the result being the abolition of penal contracts under the Act throughout the tea districts of Assam. In pursuance of the policy of facilitating recruitment of unindentured emigrants by *bonâ fide* garden *sardars* the concessions previously allowed to certain approved associations were extended by this Government to individual employers who may appoint duly licensed local agents in the recruiting districts. Thus emigrants recruited by *sardars* working under local agents, whether appointed by a recognised association or by an individual, are not required to be produced before a Government registering officer, and the actual control and responsibility for recruitment now devolves upon these local agents. A notification was issued by this Government under section 91 of Act VI of 1901 by which labour contracts were dispensed with in the case of emigrants recruited by certificated garden *sardars* not accredited to any local agent. Formerly only emigrants recruited by *sardars* working under the control of approved associations could not be required to enter into labour contracts, but now no emigrant recruited, whether by a *sardar* working under a local

agent, or by a *sardar* working independently without the control of any local agent, may be required to enter into such a contract. In view of improved facilities for the transit of emigrants, rule 146 of the rules framed by this Government under the Act was amended, and emigrants who have been in the train for less than six hours have no longer to halt at Asansol, Kharagpur and Naihati.

Number of emigrants embarked at Goalundo.

558 The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Madras, Bihar and Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and the adjoining Native States, who embarked at Goalundo during the year under review, was 60,215 as against 55,166 in the preceding year. Of this number, which is the largest recorded since the year 1908-09, 2,314 were recruited by licensed contractors and 53,707 by garden *sardars* of all classes, as compared with 4,785 and 43,043 in the year 1913-14. The increase was marked in all classes of *sardari* emigrants, but those recruited by contractors and also those alleged to have been recruited in Native States decreased by 51·64 and 42·84 per cent., respectively.

Recruitment and recruiting agencies.

559. Recruiting operations were conducted in this Presidency in the districts of Bankura, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore and the 24-Parganas only as in previous years. The total number of emigrants registered in these districts under Chapters III and IV of the Act was 390 and 977, respectively, as against 864 and 595 in the preceding year. The number of emigrants recruited by garden *sardars* working under the control of approved associations was 1,034, or 46 less than in 1913-14. Of these 833 emigrants were recruited in the district of Midnapore, 162 in the district of Bankura, and 39 in the district of Burdwan. In Burdwan and the 24-Parganas no fewer than 977 emigrants were recruited by ordinary garden *sardars* working under Chapter IV of the Act. This is a high figure when compared with the number recruited through *sardars* under control, and there seems reason to fear that a considerable proportion of these emigrants was obtained through unlicensed intermediaries. The number of licensed contractors was the same as in the preceding year, but the number of recruiters licensed on their behalf was 24, or 4 less than in the year 1913-14. In all 13 local agents' licenses were granted during the year as against the same number in the previous year. The work of these local agents was generally satisfactory. Of the 786 garden *sardars* employed in this Presidency during the year, 76 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV of the Act, and 710 under the control of approved associations, as against 109 and 980, respectively, in the previous year.

Criminal cases.

560. There were 24 criminal cases connected with recruitment, the same number as in the preceding year, but the number of persons convicted increased from 10 in the year 1913-14 to 22 in the year under report.

Condition of depots and rest-houses.

561. The depôts, places of accommodation and rest-houses for emigrants were duly inspected and kept in proper sanitary condition, and the arrangements for the transport of emigrants continued to be satisfactory. Among 2,316 emigrants despatched by licensed contractors to Goalundo, there was no death during the journey to that station or afterwards on the steamer voyage, but among the emigrants recruited by garden *sardars*, of whom 53,781 arrived at Goalundo, 10 deaths occurred there, while 17 emigrants are reported to have died *en route*. Among the 43,608 *sardari* emigrants who embarked for the Assam Valley districts 29 died during the voyage, but no death occurred during the steamer journey among the 10,099 *sardari* coolies who embarked for Cachar and Sylhet. Out of 36,592 emigrants of all classes who passed through Chandpur during the year there were only 5 deaths.

Repatriation of emigrants.

562. Twenty-three emigrants were repatriated during the year from the labour districts through Goalundo, and 57 who refused to embark at Goalundo were also repatriated. In addition four coolies alleged to have been brought from the tea gardens and left stranded at Goalundo were sent back to their native districts.

Jalpaiguri Labour Act, 1912.

563. The number of tea estates in the Jalpaiguri district rose from 119 to 121 and the coolie population from 182,608 to 193,940. The Managers of the gardens are eager to adopt the recommendations contained in Major Munro's report of 1914, but sufficient time has not yet lapsed for any noticeable change in the general conditions to be effected. The vital statistics

collected show that the health of the coolie population on the tea gardens is generally superior to that of the population both in the surrounding district and in Bengal as a whole.

Medical Relief.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

General.

564. The total number of Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Presidency town increased from 19 in 1913 to 20 during the year under report by the inclusion of Rai Bhagawan Das Bagla Bahadur's Marwari Hospital, which is a private non-aided institution. The daily average of in-patients treated in classes I, III and IV institutions was 1,432·52 as compared with 1,396·47 in the previous year. During the year the total number of patients treated in these 20 institutions was 388,677, against 355,782 treated in the 19 institutions during the year 1913. The beds available in classes I, III and IV hospitals show a decrease of 10 compared with those in the previous year, their number having been 1,889 against 1,899. This reduction was principally due to the closure of the in-door department of the Chandney Hospital and to the occupation of a number of beds in the Howrah General Hospital by nurses pending the construction of their quarters. Against this there was an increase of 12 beds in the Medical College Hospital owing to the opening of the diphtheria ward. The scheme for associating members of the independent Medical Profession with the staff of Government Hospitals as Honorary Surgeons and Physicians which was introduced for the first time into the Mayo and Sambhunath Pandit Hospitals with effect from the 1st June and 1st July 1914, respectively, worked smoothly and well in those institutions.

Diseases treated.

565. The number of patients treated at hospitals and dispensaries for cholera and small-pox showed a fairly considerable increase owing to the prevalence of the diseases in the town in epidemic form, the statistics being 1,064 and 997, against 739 and 69, respectively, in the previous year. There was a gratifying diminution in the mortality from phthisis among the general population of the town from 2,118 in 1913 to 1,867 in 1914. The number of in-patients treated for this disease was 607, against 687 in 1913 with a diminished death-rate of 42·66 as compared with 47·45 per cent. The outbreak of plague during the year was of an exceptionally mild character, the number of cases having been the lowest recorded since the city was infected.

Finance.

566. The total expenditure of classes I, III and IV hospitals, excluding amounts invested, aggregated Rs. 13,86,483 or an increase of Rs. 64,929 over the expenditure in the previous year. During the year Government paid 3·51 per cent. more on the whole than in 1913. Private donations and subscriptions fell off considerably, the fall being most marked in the case of subscriptions by Indians.

DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

567. Seventeen new dispensaries came into existence during the year and 19 old institutions were brought on to the list, while 4 were closed. and 2 class V dispensaries were struck off the list. The total number of dispensaries which remained open at the close of the year was 649 as compared with 619 in 1913.

Number of patients.

568. The total number of patients treated in these dispensaries was 5,571,324, against 5,182,680 in the preceding year. In addition 130,066 patients, including those treated by travelling medical officers of the Eastern Bengal State Railway received medical relief at Mission and temporary epidemic dispensaries and at *hāts* and fairs, which were visited by medical officers. The death-rate among patients of all classes of hospitals and dispensaries was 6·43 per cent. as compared with 7·79 in the previous year.

569. The disease most commonly treated was, as usual, malaria. In every thousand attending the hospitals there were 247 malaria patients. Attendance at the in-door department of classes I, III and IV dispensaries for malaria numbered 6,227 or an increase of 259 on the preceding year. The death-rate was 6 per cent. the same as in 1913. There was a greater prevalence of small-pox in the Presidency during the year, the number of patients treated in hospitals and dispensaries consequently increased from 268 in 1913 to 451 in 1914. Plague, it is satisfactory to note, was practically extinct, only 8 cases being treated as compared with 919 in 1913. The number of phthisis cases increased from 4,278 to 4,426. Grants were made from Provincial revenues towards projects for providing separate wards for phthisical patients in sadar hospitals. In some of the dispensaries the wards had been completed, while in others they were under construction. **Diseases treated.**

570. The total income of Government local fund and private aided Dispensaries, excluding the opening balances amounted to Rs. 11,22,111, an increase of Rs. 32,731 over the income of these institutions, in 1913. Government contributions (including special grant for phthisical wards) accounted for 21·36 per cent. of this; contributions from local funds and municipalities for 36·67 and 16·91 per cent., respectively, public subscriptions for 17·51 per cent. and the income from Miscellaneous sources for 7·55 per cent. The upkeep of the above hospitals and dispensaries cost Rs. 10,66,901, excluding amounts invested as compared with Rs. 9,92,962 in the previous year. **Income and Expenditure.**

571. There were three Leper Asylums in the Presidency, viz., those at Gobra, Bankura and Raniganj. They treated 752 lepers. A sum of Rs. 62,466 was expended for their upkeep, of which Government contributed Rs. 37,548. **Leper Asylums.**

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1914.]

572. The total number of admissions fell from 672 in 1913 to 606 in 1914. The number of persons admitted to the several classes, viz., first, intermediate, second and third classes were 69, 97, 296 and 144, respectively, as compared with 79, 125, 291 and 177 during the previous year. The number of patients treated also fell from 499 in 1913 to 183 in 1914 which in the records of the institution represents the smallest number ever treated. This is mainly due to a change in the classification of the residents. Hitherto any resident who was not classed under "Relatives or friends," was classed as a "patient" although suffering from no illness whatever. This has been altered, and now only those persons who are admitted to the institution for treatment are classified as "sick." **Admission.**

573. The receipts from patients fell from Rs. 35,643 in 1913 to Rs. 31,502 in 1914, and the deficit which amounted to Rs. 2,587 in 1912, and Rs. 7,143 in 1913, rose to Rs. 12,906 during the year under report. To enable the Managing Committee to meet the deficit Government sanctioned a special grant of Rs. 12,000 in February 1915. A general revision of the rates of fees charged from visitors seeking admission into the institution was also sanctioned in May 1915 with a view to improving the financial condition of the institution. **Finance.**

574. Fifteen patients were treated in the "free beds" during the year against 22 in 1913; and the total cost on all "free beds" amounted to Rs. 1,058 as compared with Rs. 1,417 during the preceding year. **Free beds.**

Lunatic Asylums.

[Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the years 1912, 1913 and 1914. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

575. There are three asylums in Bengal—at Berhampore, Bhowanipur (24-Parganas) and Dacca. **Number of Asylums.**

Population, Admission, and Discharge.

576. The problem of accommodation for the insane population of Bengal is one that has been before this Government for some years, and the statistics of population are therefore of special interest at the present time. The daily average strength was 1,063·43 in 1912, 1,084·51 in 1913, and 1,068·76 in 1914, giving a mean average of 1,072·23 for the triennium as against 984·73 for the period 1909-11. This increase has not been the result of a greater number of admissions, for although the number reached the high figure of 237 in 1912, it fell during 1913 and 1914, and the yearly average for the triennium was 200, against 218 of the previous three years. While the decline in the past two years was in part accounted for by the closure of the Dacca Asylum to lunatics from Assam, it was more probably due to the endeavour which was noticed in the last triennial review to restrict admissions to lunatics whose detention in an asylum is absolutely necessary, and to exclude harmless lunatics who could well be supported and taken care of by their friends and relations.

The mortality has shown no great change, but the fall in the number of cures in the past two years, coupled with the number of admissions, would tend to show that care has been taken to refrain from sending the less serious cases of lunacy to the asylums, and that the asylum population consists mainly of cases in which a cure is almost hopeless.

To meet the increasing population, increased accommodation was provided in each of the three asylums in 1912, and in the last two years of the period there was room for 888 males and 206 females as compared with 754 and 196 in 1911. But the need for further accommodation is still pressing. The mean strength (1,072) approximates too closely to the accommodation available, and actually more than 1,100 persons were confined in one night in each of the three years, the greatest number being 1,134 in 1913.

Finance.

577. The total average annual cost of the asylums has again risen, being Rs. 1,94,527, against Rs. 1,67,512 in the previous period. After the Public Works Department charges have been deducted, the average cost per head per annum works out at Rs. 164-14-6, against Rs. 158-7 in 1909-11, and the cost has risen from Rs. 161-14-3 in 1913 to Rs. 174-15-3 in 1914. This is mainly due to increase in the cost of diet.

The extraneous receipts of the asylums are derived from manufactures and from the fees of paying patients. There was a falling off in both cases in the year 1914 when the daily average strength of paying lunatics fell to only 28·99 and unfavourable climatic conditions reduced the receipts of the vegetable garden of the Berhampore Asylum.

European lunatics.

578. The average number of European lunatics treated rose from 58 in 1909-11 to 60 in 1912-14, and the average daily strength from 41·75 to 46·24. The need for increased and better accommodation for Europeans, and in particular the provision of a place of observation, are keenly felt. The question is connected with the proposed asylum for Europeans at Ranchi, and until this has been completed, the Bhowanipur Asylum must continue to be the asylum for European and Anglo-Indian lunatics from Bengal. Certain alterations and improvements have been made to ameliorate the lot of these lunatics, but conditions will not be entirely satisfactory until the new asylum has been built.

Health of lunatics.

579. The health of the lunatics during the triennium under report shows a marked improvement on the previous period. It was particularly good in 1914 when only 355 lunatics were admitted to hospital as against 830, 487 and 514 in 1911, 1912 and 1913, respectively. The use of quinine as a prophylactic was responsible for reducing the number of fever cases to an exceptionally low figure. Cases of bowel complaints were also comparatively few as a result of the precautionary measures adopted. But tubercular phthisis was again conspicuous and accounted for a very considerable proportion of the deaths. This disease has received great attention from the officers of the asylums, but despite measures of segregation, open air treatment and careful diet, it is difficult to overcome the unfortunate habits of the insane and to ensure such sanitation and cleanliness as are necessary to eradicate the disease.

Sanitation.

[Reports of the Sanitary Board, Bengal, and the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, for the year 1914.]

Sanitary Board.

580. The Sanitary Board held nine meetings during the year. Eleven sketch projects estimated to cost Rs. 53,21,672 and fourteen detailed schemes estimated to cost Rs. 12,65,625 were forwarded to Government for approval and sanction. The Board also considered a scheme for the supply of water to the Municipalities and Cantonments on the Eastern bank of the Hooghly.

Sanitary works.

581. The total cost of sanitary works executed during 1913-14 by Government, Municipalities, District Boards and private individuals amounted to Rs. 17,28,946, against Rs. 13,14,368 during the previous year.

Sanitary improvements.

582. Municipal expenditure on sanitation during 1913-14 increased under all important heads, the total increase amounting to Rs. 5,56,687. This increase was principally due to capital expenditure on water-supply and drainage, while there was also a considerable rise in the amount spent on conservancy. 40·15 per cent. of the total receipts was spent on sanitary works against 32·21 in the previous year. The surface drainage scheme for Howrah made considerable progress, and portions of the Garulia, Serampore and Budge-Budge drainage schemes were completed. Water-supply projects were completed in Hooghly-Chinsurah, Serampore, Jessore and Khulna, and a large sum was spent in the extension of the Howrah water-works. Steps were taken to improve village sanitation in several districts by clearing out impure tanks, by cutting down jungle and by improving drainage. The Midnapore District Board spent Rs. 36,956 on these measures, which appear to have been appreciated by the villagers.

Vaccination.

[Annual Statistical Returns and short Notes on Vaccination in Bengal for the year 1914-15. Statistics of British India—Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Vaccination.

583. One million six hundred and five thousand seven hundred and eleven vaccinations were performed during the year 1914-15, the number of persons vaccinated being 1,600,362. The number of primary vaccinations decreased from 1,575,510 to 1,139,384, while the number of revaccinations increased from 281,784 to 466,327. The decrease in primary vaccinations was most marked in the Eastern districts, and is due to the fact that reliable returns have not been submitted in previous years. The enquiries regarding the falsification of Vaccination returns which have been carried out in Bakarganj by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of the Dacca Circle have had a salutary effect on the staff of the neighbouring districts, with the result that the returns are nearer the truth than formerly. The increase in the number of revaccinations was due to the prevalence of small-pox in Calcutta and elsewhere. The ratio of the surviving infant population vaccinated fell as low as 29·9 per cent.; in Bakarganj and Faridpur the ratios were only 5·7 and 8·5 per cent., respectively.

Small-pox.

584. The death-rate from small-pox rose from 0·19 to 0·21 per mille, but it is satisfactory to note that the decline in the infant mortality from this disease was well maintained. The number of deaths in the Dacca Division decreased from 5,272 to 1,303, but the mortality in the Chittagong Division continued to be high. Small-pox was prevalent in Calcutta during the first seven months and the last month of the year, and it spread into the neighbouring districts raised the death-rate in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions.

The Poisons Act.

[The report on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1914.]

Working of the Poisons Act.

585. No special steps beyond the usual are reported to have been taken to make the law known in any districts, except in Pabna, Bankura, Midnapore and Hooghly where the provisions of the Act and the rules thereunder

were made known through the Police and by beat of drum and also through chaukidars and daffadars. The total number of licenses granted during the year 1914, throughout the Presidency, including Calcutta was 166 under section 2 and 282 under section 4 as compared with 142 and 236, respectively, in 1913. In Calcutta the total number of licenses issued under both the sections amounted to 106, against 111 during the previous year. Outside Calcutta the largest number of licenses current were in the districts of Pabna (81), Birbhum (43), Midnapore (41), Dacca (29) and 24-Parganas (24). In Pabna the unusual increase from 9 licenses in 1913 to 81 in 1914 was due to the fact that steps were taken to make it known to the public that the sale of poisons without a license would be followed by prosecution. As it was suspected from the small number of licenses current in several districts that in many places poisons are still sold to a considerable extent without licenses, instructions were issued to local officers to take more vigorous steps to make the law known and observed. The duty of inspection and supervision in certain districts of Eastern Bengal was carried out only by Medical officers; instructions have now been issued that Police officers also should, as in West Bengal, inspect the premises of the licensed vendors of poisons. The total number of prosecutions instituted under the Act was 7, of which 4 ended in conviction. No serious irregularities were detected during the year under report.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 264—273.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction for 1914-15. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Financial.

586. The year was one of general progress and witnessed an increase in the numbers of schools and scholars within the Presidency. Expenditure on education increased by more than 33 lakhs, 71·8 per cent. of which was contributed from public funds and 28·2 per cent. from private sources such as fees, subscriptions, endowments, etc. The most noticeable increase was under the head "Provincial Revenues" and is explained mainly by the large expenditure met by the Imperial grants for recurring and non-recurring purposes. There was a general increase of expenditure from this source on all branches of education, the largest increase amounting to about 12½ lakhs under the head "Buildings."

Collegiate Education.

587. Government Arts colleges showed a further increase in attendance, there being 3,293 students on the roll on 31st March 1915 as against 3,171 on the corresponding date last year. Extended affiliation was accorded to the Presidency College up to the M.A. Standard in Philosophy, and to the M.A. and M.Sc. Standards in Physiology. The teaching staff in both the Rajshahi College and the Hooghly College was strengthened and the Chemical Laboratory of the Hooghly College was extended. At the Presidency College the Representative Committee of students, which was formed in the previous year to secure greater co-operation between professor and pupil, showed enterprise in the organisation of a first-aid class and proved of value in several ways.

Secondary Education.

588. While the number of High schools and Middle English schools for boys has increased, the general level of teaching in these schools remains unsatisfactory, especially as regards English. The poor remuneration and arduous work of the schoolmaster deter men of even moderate academic qualifications from adopting this profession, and a good deal has been done to improve the positions of all grades of teachers, though funds have not as yet been forthcoming to enable the Department to do more than touch the fringe of this most important question. An effort has been made to improve the position in Government schools by utilising the recurring Imperial grant of Rs. 2,26,000 which was announced in the year 1914-15 for the purpose of granting local allowances to teachers on low salaries. This scheme has been sanctioned with effect from the 1st January 1915. Meanwhile, the greater part of this grant for the year 1913-14 was spent, together with the balance of other Imperial grants, in the improvement of old buildings, the construction of new, and the acquisition of sites. The scheme for the establishment of a "public school" for Indian boys received the sanction of the Secretary of State during the year under review and has since been inaugurated at Hastings House, Alipore.

Primary Education.

589. Purely vernacular education for children who have passed the Lower Primary stage has failed to advance in public favour, and the numbers of the Middle Vernacular and Upper Primary schools and of the scholars attending them have again decreased. On the other hand there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of Lower Primary schools and of the children studying in them. There were 32,728 Lower Primary schools with 1,045,948

children attending them in 1914-15, as compared with 31,005 such schools and 1,006,981 scholars in 1913-14. Considerable attention was paid by the Education Department to the improvement of these schools during the year, and a sum of Rs. 5,07,832 was devoted from recurring Imperial grants to increasing the pay of Primary school teachers, while Rs. 3,80,984 were paid for the maintenance of Board schools, and a capital grant of Rs. 1,18,075 was distributed to secure some addition to the equipment of Primary schools. The increase of the pay of teachers and the co-ordination of the curricula of these schools throughout the Eastern and Western Bengal are now the two most pressing problems with which Primary education in this Province is faced.

Training of teachers.

590. The essential work of training teachers of all grades, which has received special attention from the Director of Public Instruction and his staff of recent years, will unfortunately suffer to a special degree from the curtailment of expenditure. Complete schemes for the reconstruction and reorganisation of the training colleges in Calcutta and Dacca have been prepared and their execution is only delayed for want of funds. Meanwhile the outturn of trained teachers increased from 74 to 105, though the results, alike in the number of teachers and the practical efficiency acquired, must remain incommensurate with the expenditure incurred by Government until the new schemes for reform can be carried out. A comprehensive scheme for the improvement of *guru*-training schools has also been prepared by the Department and placed before Government in connection with the amalgamation of the systems established in Eastern and Western Bengal, and experiments are being made with schools of the type which has now been proposed. With assistance from the recurring Imperial grant of Rs. 3,65,000 of 1913-1914, the stipends of *gurus* in training have been uniformly raised to Rs. 10.

Education of Indian girls and women.

591. There has been steady progress in almost all existing branches of female education and a very encouraging increase in the appreciation shown of its value among those chiefly affected by it. The number of girls' schools increased from 7,573 to 8,268 within the year, and the number of scholars from 230,729 to 247,971. There was a remarkable increase in the number of Muhammadan girls attending school, and there is reported to be a growing desire for education among Muhammadan women throughout the Province. The sanction of Government was accorded in October, 1914, to the distribution of the Imperial recurring grant of Rs. 2,44,000 for female education, and allotments were made for the benefit of girls' schools of all classes, for the training of teachers for Secondary and Primary schools, the establishment of scholarships, the furtherance of education by zanana teachers, the advancement of instruction among Muhammadan girls, and the strengthening of the Inspecting staff. A scheme for the establishment of a Secondary training college for women has received the approval of Government, while proposals are under consideration for the reorganisation of the Primary training school for women at Dacca, and the establishment of a *purdanashin* training class for Muhammadan women. Experiments are being made in Eastern Bengal with Panchayati Union girls' schools financed out of the Imperial grants, and with schools conducted by zanana ladies in their own homes. A marked improvement in the needlework in the schools of Eastern Bengal is attributed to the Needlework Exhibition and diplomas instituted by Her Excellency Lady Carmichael. It is being recognised to an increasing degree that the Matriculation course of study is not equally suited to boys and girls, and efforts are being made both by public opinion and by the Department to discover a suitable substitute for it. General interest has undoubtedly been aroused in the subject, and it may be hoped that a solution of the difficult problem of the most suitable curriculum for the education of girls above the Primary stage will soon be evolved. The question is receiving the unremitting attention of the Director of Public Instruction and his colleagues.

Education of Europeans.

592. Some improvement has been noticed this year in the standard of teaching in European schools, and a slight increase was found possible in the allotments for staff allowances from Imperial grants. The old Kidderpore Orphanage was transferred to the Calcutta Free School and the Doveton College and Doveton Institution were wound up under the Doveton Trust Act, careful provision being made for the perpetuation of the objects of the

original endowments. A distinctive feature in the facilities for European education is the range of vocational classes available for women, due largely to the enterprise of the Young Women's Christian Association in Calcutta.

Education of Muhammadans.

593. The percentage of Muhammadans among the school-going population increased during the period under review from 43·4 per cent. to 44·8 per cent. It is still, however, only in the primary stages that the Muhammadan element in our schools bears any relation to its proportion in the total population, as it dwindles from 44 per cent. in Primary institutions to 16·8 per cent. in High schools and 7·8 per cent. in Colleges. This is attributed largely to the poverty of the classes from which Muhammadan students are drawn. *Madrasahs* and *maktabs* alike increased in number and were more frequented than during the previous year. During the current year a scheme of studies drawn up by the Dacca University Committee for all *Madrasahs* in Bengal, except the Calcutta *Madrasah*, has been published by Government, and a recurring grant of Rs. 84,000 has been set apart from the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,50,000 to aid those *Madrasahs* which may adopt this course. At the same time the cost of the maintenance of Government *Madrasahs* has been transferred from the Mohsin Fund to Provincial Revenues, the consequent savings in the fund being devoted to the provision of scholarships for Muhammadan students in colleges. It is believed that the appointment recently made of five special Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan education will go far to stimulate the keenness for education already evinced by the Muhammadan community of this Province. Government awaits with interest the report of the Muhammadan Educational Advisory Committee which concluded its sittings during the year under review.

Education of Special classes.

594. There appears to have been a general awakening to their responsibilities regarding education among the backward races of the Chittagong Division. Free education is given to the boys and girls of the Hill Tracts and to the Arakanese Maghs in Cox's Bazar Subdivision. The Government Weaving School at this subdivisional head-quarters promises well, and it is proposed to establish here also a Training School for Magh teachers. Schemes for the extension of education among the Soathals received the sanction of Government after the close of the year reviewed. Two classes of labourers, the education of whose children requires special treatment, are those employed on the mills along the Hooghly and on the tea gardens in the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts. Special schools for these children in the latter area were well attended, those of Darjeeling giving the best results; and proposals for the education of the children of the Hooghly mill-hands were submitted to Government this year and have since been sanctioned. The question of imparting instruction to juvenile offenders has been under the consideration of Government, and it is hoped that the special enquiry which is now being made into problems of this nature will lead to early developments.

Hostels.

595. Imperial grants to the Department facilitated a considerable advance in the provision of hostel accommodation both for colleges and schools. Sites were acquired for some new hostels in Calcutta, and the balance of the special grant made for this purpose has now been amalgamated with the grant of 10 lakhs recently made by the Government of India to the Calcutta University, to enable the University to take the fullest advantage of the sum placed at their disposal. Schemes for the erection of the hostels out of the total sum thus made available are now under the consideration of the University and of Government. The details of a new Hindu hostel for the Presidency College, to be erected at an approximate cost of $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, were sanctioned during the year, though construction has unfortunately to be deferred for want of funds. A new block for the Hindu hostel at the Hooghly College was completed. The number of hostels has increased and there has been also an increase in the expenditure upon them. Out of this expenditure no less a sum than Rs. 9,14,980 was debited against Imperial grants in the year under report.

Physical training.

596. Hygiene and physical training have received increased attention, and it is hoped that the recommendations of the Committee appointed to study the hygienic condition of schools with a view to the utilisation of the Imperial grant for this purpose of Rs. 3,50,000, and an interesting report which has

been submitted by the Adviser on Physical Education, will prove the basis of definite reforms.

Discipline.

597. During the year there were few reported cases of breach of discipline, and a recurrence in the dissemination of seditious leaflets on the outbreak of the war appears to have had little prejudicial effect. The reports received on this subject are not, however, uniformly favourable, and it would be a mistake to suppose that the time has come when constant watchfulness on the part of parent and teacher and the vigorous condemnation by public opinion of instances of want of discipline among school-boys can be dispensed with.

Devolution of powers.

598. Special action was taken during the year to assist the Director of Public Instruction to secure greater devolution of powers and duties from his office to those of Inspectors of Schools and other officers in order that he may be left more free for the important work of inspection and general administration. Other large administrative problems of a like nature are also being dealt with, and the machinery for the administration of the Department, which has proved unequal to the increased pressure that has been put upon it, is being overhauled.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

Bengal Library and working of Act XXV of 1867.

599. The number of publications registered during the year was 4,093, viz., 2,741 books and 1,352 issues of periodicals. Of the books, 2,422 were original publications, the rest being republications or translations. The issues of periodicals represented 178 separate publications, of which 46 were in English and 101 in Bengali: the remainder were in other languages. In the preceding year, there were 203 periodicals, of which 118 were in Bengali. Sixty-three periodicals ceased to appear during the period under review, 38 new ones were started and 3 defunct ones were revived. There were 83 cases of evasion of the law of book registration during the year.

Literary publications.

600. Although there was no appreciable increase in the number of publications, the year was exceptionally fruitful in fiction and poetry. The publications on art, though poor, gave indications of a steadily growing interest in Indian art. The only regular biographical work was the second volume of "The Life of the Swami Vivekananda." The quality of dramatic literature showed some improvement. Numerous mythological dramas were published of which only one deserves special mention, the late Mr. D. L. Roy's "Bhishma." The development of fiction was seen best in the novels of domestic life which exceeded in number all other classes of fiction. The best novel of this type was "Kamala" by Ashutosh Bhattacharayya, which portrays the devotion of a Hindu wife to her husband. Most of the works on history consisted of textbooks for schools and colleges. The Buddhistic period in the history of India continued to engross the attention of distinguished scholars. The year was marked by an abundance of poetical compositions. The output of religious literature was much more plentiful than in the previous year and was of a varied nature. The award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore aroused great enthusiasm.

The Press and the working of Indian Press Act.

601. The total number of newspapers and periodicals, both English and Vernacular, published in Bengal during the year was 385, of which 266 were published in the town of Calcutta. Fifty-seven newspapers and periodicals started publication during the year, 30 old ones ceased to exist and 3 defunct ones were revived. Of these publications, 217 were written in Bengali, 116 in English, 13 in Hindi and the rest in Urdu, Assamese and other languages. There was an improvement in the general tone of the Press during the year. The outbreak of the war evoked an outburst of loyalty; but after Turkey became involved in hostilities, some difference of opinion manifested itself among Muhammadan papers. The more moderate section of the Muhammadan Press took the view that Turkey's action had been ill-advised; but other papers, in their sympathy for Turkey, manifested an anti-British tone, which in two cases necessitated action under the Indian Press

Act. After the outbreak of the war two Press Censors were appointed to examine newspapers and to advise editors, with special reference to the Indian Naval and Military News (Emergency) Ordinance, 1914. In addition to the proceedings taken against the offending Muhammadan papers, 6 leaflets, 2 books and a foreign newspaper were forfeited, and security was demanded in respect of 9 printing presses and 2 newspapers. Warnings were issued in 5 cases, and 1 objectionable publication was voluntarily surrendered.

Topics discussed in the Press.

602. The war was the most important topic which was discussed and its bearing on Turkey and Persia formed a special feature of the discussions in the Muhammadan Press. The question of the treatment of Indians in the British Colonies received a large share of attention. Other subjects in which considerable interest was shown by the Press were the recrudescence of anarchical crime and in particular the Chitpur murder case; the Budge-Budge riot; the educational policy of Government; rural sanitation; the division of districts in Bengal; the India Council Bill; the Bill to amend the Law of Contempt; the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill; the Bill for the Protection of Minor Girls and the Articles of Commerce, Ordinance IX of 1914.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 278-279.

Arts and Sciences.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

603. There were 284 students on the rolls of the school on the 31st March 1915, as against 262 in the previous year. Of these, 8 were Christians 262 Hindus, 13 Muhammadans and 1 Buddhist. The lithography and wood-engraving classes had 23 and 5 students, respectively. During the year 29 students have obtained remunerative employment and are working satisfactorily in different branches of art. As in the previous years, students have been attracted to the school from all parts of India, including the Punjab, Mysore, Hyderabad, Cochin, Madras, Assam, and Bihar and Orissa.

Government Art Gallery, Calcutta.

604. During the year under review a large Tibetan appliqué picture has been erected at the north end of the gallery. This picture is protected by a screen to prevent the colours from being affected by light, but this screen may be temporarily furled by any visitor who desires to examine this valuable acquisition.

Other Schools of Art.

605. There are 3 other Schools of Art in the Presidency, 2 in Calcutta and 1 at Dacca. One of the Calcutta schools is aided; the others are unaided. On the 31st of March 1915 there were 86 students on the rolls of these schools.

Music Schools.

606. There were 2 Music Schools in the Bankura district against 5 the year before. The 3 unaided schools, which existed only in name in previous years, ceased to exist during the year. The 2 schools had 37 pupils on their rolls on the 31st March 1915. A grant-in-aid was given this year to the Conservatoire de Musique, Calcutta.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

607. The numbers in the various departments on the 31st March 1915 were 92 in the Engineering Department, 177 in the Apprentice Department, 3 in the Dyeing classes and 41 in the Artisan classes. During the year the total admissions to the Engineering and the Apprentice Departments numbered 24 and 73, respectively. Of the 177 students attending the Apprentice Department, 140 were Hindus and 37 Christians. In the Engineering Department there was only 1 Muhammadan. The session of the Mining Branch opened with 10 students, viz., 7 in the third-year class and 3 in the fourth-year. At the Colliery Managers' Certificate Examination this year, 7 students passed, all in the Second division. In the workshops the

value of the work turned out amounted to Rs. 20,691, including Rs. 2,042 from foundry receipts. The industrial classes for training young artisans had an average attendance of 39 ; 5 artisans left during the year, their earnings amounting to Rs. 1,348. The Chemical Department was, as during last year, in charge of the Professor of Tinctorial Chemistry. In the Department of Tinctorial Chemistry there were 4 regular students—3 in the first-year and 1 in the second. Sanction was received during the year from the Secretary of State to the continuance of the Dyeing classes till the close of the session commencing in November 1916. The total direct expenditure on the college during the year was Rs. 2,31,243, of which Rs. 2,06,488 came from the public funds.

Dacca School of Engineering.

608. The new admissions to the various classes of the school during the year were 23 to the first-year class, 41 to the second-year class, 52 to the third-year class and 40 to the fourth-year. The Survey classes have been abolished, and pending their reconstitution on an improved basis no new admissions will be made. The total market value of the work turned out from the workshops was Rs. 1,037 for outside work, Rs. 3,283 for improvements in the workshop itself, and Rs. 240 for work done at the school buildings and hostels. The school had 202 students, including those in the artisan classes, on the 31st March 1915 against 256 on the 31st March 1914.

Mining Instruction in the coal-fields.

609. As in previous years, the Mining Educational Advisory Board controlled the five centres at Charanpur, Deshergarh, Raniganj, Sijua and Jheria. Out of 58 students eligible for the sessional examination for all five centres only 25 actually appeared and 16 passed. The question of the development of the local mining classes on an improved basis, as advocated in the Report of the Committee on Mining Education (1914), is still under consideration.

Pleaders' Survey Examination.

610. During the year under review there were 14 students in the Training class at Sibpur and 8 at Dacca. At the examination held in February 1915, 7 candidates passed out of 30.

Survey Education.

611. A special Committee was appointed to consider this question. The report of the Committee is now under consideration.

Joint Technical Examination Board.

612. The introduction at the Goethal's Memorial Orphanage, Kurseong, of the special first year class of the three years' course in the Mechanical and Electrical branch of the Overseer Examination was sanctioned during the year. At the Overseer Examination this year 84 candidates passed out of 109 or 77·1 per cent., and at the Sub-Overseer Examination 81 passed out of 145 or 55·9 per cent. In 1914 these percentages were, respectively, 57·8 and 63·4. There has been a general decline in the number of admissions to Technical schools. The Midnapore Technical School and the Sub-Overseer classes of the Barisal Technical School have been closed.

City and Guilds of London Institute Technological Examination.

613. The examinations in April and May 1914 were held at two centres, Serampore and Calcutta. Fifty-four candidates in textile subjects appeared at the Serampore centre and 20 in engineering subjects appeared at the Calcutta centre. Thirty-four candidates passed in textile subjects and 6 in engineering subjects.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, and outlying centres.

614. The session of the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore opened with 23 students in the higher classes and 83 in the artisan class. Sanction was accorded to the installation of a small power-driven factory at a cost of Rs. 11,026 to enable the students to receive a more practical training, and to afford them an opportunity of gaining experience by working on power-driven machinery, on the completion of their course in hand-weaving. The question of the site on which the power factory is to be installed is under consideration. The total cost to Government for the Institute during the year was Rs. 40,689, including the cost of the power factory. At the Malda Government Weaving School the expenditure for the year was Rs. 1,178, at Cox's Bazar Rs. 1,133 and at Bankura Rs. 1,243. The average number of pupils in these outlying schools was 14, 13 and 12, respectively. During the year under review steady progress has been made both at the Institute and the outlying centres.

Schools for Juvenile Offenders.

615. The question of providing schools for juvenile offenders was under consideration throughout the year.

Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

616. There has been an improvement in the standard of admissions of the school as compared with previous years. The number of pupils who joined the school during the year was 54 in the first-year class and 17 in the second-year. In the evening classes there were altogether 148 students, of whom 38 took advanced subjects. In the final examination of the day course, 14 appeared and 4 passed. The total cost of the Institute for the year was Rs. 30,487. During the year under review a special grant of Rs. 8,100 was made to the school for the purchase of modern standard typewriters of different makes, and the addition of 19 new typewriters has contributed considerably to the efficiency of the instruction. The opening of a class in Accountancy has been sanctioned since the close of the period under review. The question of constituting a Governing Body with defined powers in place of the existing Commercial Advisory Board is being considered.

"B" classes.

617. At the School Final Examination of "B" classes held in 1915, 25 candidates appeared from Bengal schools, of whom 10 passed. At the examination of 1914, 31 candidates appeared and 17 passed.

CHAPTER VIII—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

[Annual Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Eastern Circle, for 1914-15.]

Establishment.

618. The duties of the Archæological Superintendent, Eastern Circle, as Officer-in-charge of the Archæological Section of the Indian Museum, have been lightened by the appointment of Mr. Percy Brown, Principal of the Calcutta School of Art, to take charge of the Exhibition branch of the Museum work.

Monuments and antiquities.

619. The total amount spent on Conservation work during the year under review was Rs. 20,038. Special and quadrennial repairs to archæological monuments at the important centres of Gaur and Pandua were executed at a cost of Rs. 4,574 in all. Special repairs to the Old Sareswar temple at Dehar in the Bankura district were completed at a total cost of Rs. 6,987 in two years; and in the same district Rs. 2,407 was spent on the conservation of five protected temples at Vishnupur. Thorough repairs to the Rudreswar Siva temple at Bamanora in the Burdwan district, which originated in the enterprise of local people, have been completed at Government expense. In the Hooghly district work on the tomb of Jafar Khan Ghazi and the mosques at Tribeni and at Satgaon and on other petty schemes was finished. In the Murshidabad district the mosque of Murshid Kuli Khan at Katra and the tombs of the Burmese Prince and Princess at Berhampore are under repairs.

Twenty-two notifications were published declaring monuments of interest to be protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act VII of 1904. In four cases agreements under section 5 of this Act were made between the Secretary of State and the owners of the monuments.

Working of the Treasure Trove Act VI of 1878.

620. Finds of coins were reported from the districts of Murshidabad, Malda and Rajshahi. Action was taken in each case under the Treasure Trove Act VI of 1878. In the two latter cases the coins were of recent date and of no numismatic value. In Murshidabad district the coins were not recovered.

A silver locket with chains of ancient workmanship was discovered in the course of excavating a tank in the Perojpur Subdivision of the Bakarganj district. It was acquired on the advice of the Principal and Vice-Principal of the Calcutta School of Art and deposited in the Dacca Museum.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911-12, PART II, PAGE 282.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

621. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 9 Clergymen of the Additional Clergy or other Societies, the Most Rev. Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S. J., and 4 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1914. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

General.

622. Captain R. B. Lloyd, I.M.S., held charge of the Department up to the 8th September 1914, when he was relieved by the permanent incumbent, Lieutenant-Colonel F. N. Windsor, I.M.S.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Sutherland, I.M.S., whose appointment as Imperial Serologist has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India as an experimental measure for a period of two years ending in February 1916, continued to carry on his special work in the Serological Laboratory, Calcutta, as in the previous year. This Officer has been appointed a Chemical Examiner to Government for the purposes of section 510 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Total of cases.

623. The total number of analyses performed in the General Analytical Department during the year under report fell from 5,307 in 1913 to 4,936 in 1914, the decrease having chiefly occurred in cocaine references made by different Excise officers. More than half the work of this Department was due to references from the Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.

Medico-legal cases.

624. One thousand eight hundred and forty-eight medico-legal cases were investigated in the year 1914, as compared with 1,965 cases in the preceding year, a decrease of 117 cases. This decrease was due to the diminution in the number of articles received in connection with animal-poisoning cases and blood-stain cases, the latter being now sent direct to the Imperial Serologist. The number of articles examined fell from 3,313 in the previous year to 3,161 in 1914. The total number of specimens of viscera sent by the Medical officers in suspected human poisoning cases was 896, which was the largest on record during the last quinquennium. As usual the most common poison was opium. A smaller number of cases was received for examination during the year in connection with suspected animal poisoning cases, but the percentage of detections of poison rose from 62·54 in 1913 to 64·59 in 1914.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, for the year 1914-15.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

625. The number of students on the College roll at the beginning of the session was 113, but the actual number at the end of the session was 96. Of these, 41 came from Bengal, 21 from Bihar, 5 from Orissa, 12 from Assam, 8 from Madras and the rest from other Provinces. All these 96 students were allowed to appear at the examination and 70 passed. Twenty three students appeared at the final examination and the results were satisfactory, the percentage of passes being 82·60.

The proposal submitted last year for the addition of a fully qualified European officer to the teaching staff of the College to raise it to the level of other similar institutions in India and to enable it to keep abreast of the modern developments of Veterinary Science has been sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and a suitable officer will be recruited for the post as soon as funds permit.

College Hospital.

626. During the year 2,680 cases were treated and 1,500 operations were performed at the College hospital. Though there were 8,455 prosecutions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, only 220 animals were sent to the hospital for treatment. The number of animals sent for treatment at the hospital continues to be small in comparison with the number of prosecutions instituted. The question has been engaging the attention of Government for some time and a Committee was appointed to consider whether any improvement was possible in the law of cruelty to animals, its administration and the present system under which public and private agencies co-operate in the suppression of cruelty. The Committee submitted its report after the close of year.

Glanders and Farcy Act.

627. In Calcutta and its neighbourhood all the stables lying in the area under the Glanders and Farcy Act were regularly inspected during the year and the disease was detected in six stables. Three stables were also found infected with *surra*. In the *mufassal*, there were 205 deaths from Glanders, of which 167 occurred in the Sodepur *Pinjrapole*.

Raymond Research Laboratory.

628. The work of the Raymond Research Institute continued to be satisfactory. The popularity of the Institute is increasing and the steady progress is being maintained in the diagnosis of contagious and obscure diseases. Auto-vaccine was prepared in the Laboratory with which some newly-imported horses of the Army Remount Depôt were successfully treated. Preventive vaccine for fowl-cholera was also prepared and some healthy pheasants of the Zoological Garden among which the disease broke out were inoculated with satisfactory results.

Civil Veterinary Department.

629. The total number of deaths from contagious diseases is reported to amount to 15,950 as against 13,136 in the preceding year. The increase is attributed to the more accurate record of deaths kept by the police in most districts and partly also to an improvement in many districts in the reporting of the outbreaks of cattle diseases. Though the number of deaths amongst equines from the principal contagious diseases fell from 279 in the preceding year to 229, the number of deaths among bovines increased from 12,847 to 15,707. The increase in the latter case is attributed to the fact that rinderpest was, as usual, fairly prevalent throughout the Province. In the area outside Calcutta and its suburbs, there were 340 outbreaks of rinderpest resulting in the death of 4,584 uninoculated animals, while out of 37,813 inoculated animals only 221 or about 0·6 per cent died. In spite of this remarkable result, considerable prejudice against inoculation still exists among cultivators.

Dispensaries.

630. Six new dispensaries were opened during the year making a total of 24, of which 3 are under private management. The total number of patients treated at 23 dispensaries was 24,049, against 21,503 in the previous year. The dispensary at Cooch Behar remained closed during the early part of the year for want of a suitable Veterinary Assistant. Since the close of the year sanction has been given to the transfer of the services of an Assistant for the dispensary, who will be paid by the Cooch Behar State, but will work under the supervision and inspection of the Veterinary Department.

631. The question of the improvement of the breed of cattle continued to engage the attention of the Director of Agriculture and of the Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary Department. Persistent efforts are being made by the officers of the Department to impress on the minds of cultivators and owners of cattle generally the need for improvement in the breeding and management of cattle, though with very little appreciable result. Breeding of Cattle.

632. There were 6 Inspectors, 4 Staff Veterinary Assistants, 6 Reserve Veterinary Assistants and 69 District Veterinary Assistants under the control of the Superintendent during the year. Staff.

A Deputy Superintendent and an Inspector from the Bengal Veterinary College and an Inspector of the Civil Veterinary Department were deputed during the year to Bombay and the Punjab to enlarge their knowledge in Veterinary matters. The reports submitted by the officers show that these tours were beneficial.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1914-15.]

633. The financial condition of the garden was not so good as in the previous year. The receipts from visitors amounted to Rs. 42,269-1, showing a decrease of Rs. 11,644-10. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 98,202-9-4 and the total expenditure to Rs. 83,731-9-2, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 14,471-0-2. The visitors numbered 559,759 or 145,223 less than in the previous year. This is due to the financial uncertainty following the outbreak of the war in Europe. Finance & Statistics.

The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year were 334, 1,898 and 246 against 378, 1,659 and 223 of the previous year. The garden was, as usual, free to the public one day in each month, and 65,033 persons availed themselves of the concession.

The War.

634. War broke out with Germany and Austria-Hungary on the 4th and 12th August, respectively, and with Turkey on the 1st November 1914. Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities all hostile aliens were registered and placed under police surveillance. In Calcutta certain European gentlemen were appointed special constables and rendered valuable service in surveillance work. Under the Foreigners Act, 1864, the movements of hostile foreigners throughout the Presidency were restricted and they were not allowed to travel without a permit. The exemption enjoyed by them under the Indian Arms Act was withdrawn and the arms in their possession were deposited. The War.

Germans and Austrians of military age were handed over to the military authorities for internment in the Prisoners of War Camp at Ahmednagar in the Bombay Presidency. Those above the military age remained under the control of the Local Government. Some were allowed to remain at their places of residence, subject to such degree of restraint as was necessary and provided written undertakings vouched for by responsible British subjects were given by them. A number of German and Austrian officers and sailors were kept under close supervision in Kidderpore House, Calcutta. Later they were transferred to Katapahar in the Darjeeling district, where other hostile aliens who were not permitted to remain at liberty were also interned under the supervision of a police officer.

The communiqués issued by the Government of India in connection with the outbreak of war with Turkey were published broadcast and every effort was made to remove any misapprehension on the subject. Special stress was laid on the non-religious character of the present war, and on the value and importance of the assurance given by His Majesty's Government as to the absolute immunity of the holy places of the Muhammadans from any hostile action.

In order that correct information regarding the war might be made known throughout the Presidency, it was decided to publish every week under the name of "Saptahik Judhabarta" (weekly war news) a Bengali translation of the telegrams on the war received by His Excellency the Viceroy from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. Copies were distributed to Post Offices, selected Panchayats, Honorary Magistrates, resident Zamindars and other influential persons in the districts. Later a Hindi edition was published.

Many persons and associations offered help, monetary or otherwise, in connection with the war, or for the comfort of the wounded. In addition to a donation of Rs. 10,000 to the Imperial Relief Fund, His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar offered his personal services and those of his two brothers, and placed the resources of his State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Maharaj-Kumar Hitendra Narayan of Cooch Behar was selected to serve on the personal staff of the General Officer Commanding one of the Brigades of the Indian Expeditionary Force, and was appointed an Honorary Lieutenant in the Army. His Highness the Raja of Hill Tippera also placed himself and the resources of his entire State at the disposal of the Imperial Government. His Highness contributed Rs. 12,000 to the Imperial Indian Relief Fund. The European Association offered the services of its members for employment in any manner considered suitable by Government. The Bengal Legislative Council at an extraordinary meeting held on 11th August adopted a resolution expressing loyalty to the Government and the Throne in this emergency and giving every assurance of hearty co-operation with the Government of India in whatever action they might consider it necessary to adopt. A crowded public meeting of all the Indian communities in Calcutta and the suburbs was held at the Town Hall on the 14th August to express loyalty to the Throne and to offer their services and resources. A scheme was initiated for the raising of a Bengali Ambulance Corps for service in the war, and at the close of the year negotiations were in progress between the promoters and Government.

Advisory Food Committee.

635. The Governor in Council appointed an Advisory Food Committee in Calcutta, the duties of which were to warn Government of any unusual movements in the prices of foodstuffs and also to take action itself, where necessary, to steady prices in direct communication with the Corporation, the owners of markets and the purveyors and manufacturers of foodstuffs in Calcutta. Similar committees were constituted in most districts.

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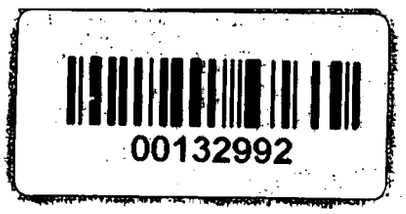
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